

Reagan Gulf buildup stokes policy row with Congress

By Christopher Hanson
Reuter

WASHINGTON — President Reagan's decision to expand the U.S. naval role in the Gulf after a missile attack on an American frigate there has stoked a struggle with Congress over foreign policy.

Legislators are sharply questioning his plan for the U.S. navy to protect 11 Kuwaiti oil tankers in the Gulf after last week's Iraqi attack on the USS Stark in which 37 American seamen were killed.

They are also questioning much more strongly than before his plan to sell F-15 jet fighters to Saudi Arabia.

These questions come on top of conflicts over Mr. Reagan's claim to be exempt from a law that banned aid to Nicaraguan rebels from 1984 to 1986 and his interpretation of the 1972 U.S.-Soviet anti-ballistic missile (ABM) treaty.

The White House has faced a growing challenge from Capitol Hill since November, when the Democrats, who already controlled the House, recaptured the Senate. But leading Republicans also are raising questions about Mr. Reagan's policies.

"We should make no more (Gulf) commitments until we are absolutely certain it is in our long-term interests," Senate Republican leader Robert Dole of Kansas declared last week.

The attack on the Stark, one of six U.S. warships patrolling the Gulf to defend freedom of navigation, pointed up the risks of operating in the area where Iraq and Iran have been at war for 6½ years.

Mr. Reagan said the attack had only hardened U.S. resolve to keep the sea lanes open and oil supplies flowing and the White House announced it was moving

ahead with the plan for protecting Kuwaiti vessels, which would fly U.S. flags.

But leading members of Congress have raised strong doubts about the plan, under which U.S. warships would operate farther north and much closer to the fighting than in the past.

The carrier Constellation, based near the mouth of the Gulf, would provide air cover.

Washington has accepted Iraq's statement that the attack on the Stark was accidental, with the pilot thinking the ship was Iranian.

But congressmen say the plan for Kuwaiti vessels to fly the U.S. flag would greatly increase risks of war with Iran.

"(Reagan) is launching a policy without understanding where it might lead," said Representative Robert Torricelli, a Democrat on the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

The Senate voted 91-5 on Thursday to require Mr. Reagan to brief Congress thoroughly before carrying out the Gulf plan.

Several legislators insist Mr. Reagan is required under the 1973 war powers act to notify Congress formally that he is sending forces into an area where hostilities are imminent.

Under the act, which arose out of congressional opposition to the Vietnam war, presidents can only deploy forces in a war zone for 90 days unless Congress votes to let them stay.

But White House spokesman

Marlin Fitzwater insisted last week that the act did not apply to the Gulf situation.

Some congressmen are also rebelling against a White House plan to sell 12 to 15 advanced F-15 planes to Saudi Arabia, because it refused a U.S. request to intercept the Iraqi jet that attacked the Stark.

Senate Democratic majority leader Robert Byrd said the sale was in serious trouble and he would vote against it because "we did not get the assistance from the Saudis we needed at a critical moment."

The Senate is also resisting Mr. Reagan's broad interpretation of the ABM treaty, which he says would allow testing and development of a "Star Wars" space-based shield against nuclear weapons.

The Iran arms scandal has sparked a sharp dispute between the White House and Congress.

Congressional hearings are probing the affair, involving the secret sale of U.S. arms to Iran and the possibly illegal transfer of profits to Nicaraguan contra rebels while official U.S. military aid to them was banned under the Boland Amendment.

Mr. Reagan initially denied he had been involved in efforts to get private groups and foreign governments to aid the contras during the ban.

But after testimony by White House aides showed he was heavily involved in encouraging these efforts, he admitted it and claimed that the Boland Amendment never applied to him because the constitution puts the president alone in charge of foreign policy.

The contention has drawn howls of protest from Democrats and legal scholars.

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W. German negotiator in Beirut to see hostages

BONN (R) — Special negotiator Hans-Juergen Wischnewski flew from Tehran to Beirut Monday to see two West Germans held hostage for the past four months by pro-Iranian Lebanese kidnappers, government sources in Bonn said.

The hostages, Rudolf Cordes and Alfred Schmidt, are being held in an attempt to force Bonn to release Mohammed Ali Hamadei, detained in West Germany on charges of illegally possessing explosives.

Hamadei is wanted by the United States for murder and air piracy in connection with the 1985 hijacking of a Trans World Airlines flight from Athens to Beirut.

Mr. Wischnewski, a senior figure in the opposition Social Democratic Party, and an experienced trouble-shooter in the Middle East and Central America, arrived in Tehran three days ago.

The speaker of the Iranian parliament, Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani was quoted by Tehran Radio Monday as saying Iran had promised to pass on a Bonn government message to the group holding the two.

The radio, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), said Mr. Rafsanjani told Mr. Wischnewski Sunday that Iran was not keen to act as a mediator, but would convey Bonn's message out of respect for Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher and the speaker of the Bonn parliament.

Floods cause havoc in Somalia

MOGADISHU (R) — Heavy rains following a long drought have caused severe flooding in central and north west Somalia, cutting off many towns and villages, Radio Mogadishu said Monday.

Rains over the past two weeks had destroyed houses, roads and bridges, the radio quoted an Interior Ministry statement as saying.

Thousands of domestic animals had died in the floods, after severe livestock losses in the preceding drought.

Last August a pro-Libyan Arab group called the United Nasserite Organisation claimed responsibility for firing rockets and mortars into Akrotiri saying it was in revenge for the role played by the base in Western acts against Arabs.

Two women were slightly injured in the attack which was launched from a road bordering the base.

"The blaze started at three in the morning (midnight GMT) and the building is gutted. There were no injuries," Maj. Johnny Rogers told Reuters.

Shin Bet in disgrace after court frees prisoner

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel's scandal-plagued Shin Bet Security Service was in disgrace Monday after the supreme court freed a jailed army officer belonging to its Muslim minority who was pressured into a false confession of treason and espionage.

Lieutenant Izzat Nafsu, a member of the Circassian ethnic minority, had served seven years of an 18-year sentence. He walked from court a free man Sunday night after the three-judge panel, in an unprecedented ruling, upheld his appeal.

The court severely criticised the methods of mental and physical pressure, bordering on torture, used by the security service to extort a false confession from the officer.

"It was said in the verdict that there was an entire system of pressures, threats, humiliations. For example, they threatened to arrest my wife and mother," Nafsu said in a radio interview.

Security agents deprived him of sleep, made him strip, spat in his face, threw him on the floor, pulled him by the hair and forced him to stand outside for long periods in mid-winter and then take a cold shower, he said.

The court ruling lent new weight to frequent statements by Palestinians that they were beaten and harassed into making confessions. More than 90 per cent of convictions in Israeli security trials are based on confessions, lawyers say.

All this went on day after day, hour after hour, without let-up. The interrogators would be

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switched and you would be sitting there. You had no right to speak and there was terrible pressure to 'tell, tell, tell' — and you had nothing to tell," Nafsu said.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, in a move to pre-empt calls for a public inquiry, last week named a two-man panel to review Shin Bet interrogation methods in the light of the Nafsu case.

Israeli newspapers described the court ruling as devastating for the security service, following last year's scandal over the beating to death by Shin Bet agents of two captured Palestinian bus hijackers in 1984.

Shin Bet chief Avraham Shalom was forced to resign and he and 10 other security officers received controversial pardons from President Chaim Herzog for their role in the killing and a subsequent cover-up.

"(The Nafsu verdict) is an unprecedented blow to the security service because it shows the fabrication of evidence uncovered last year... was not an isolated incident but part of a system used by Shin Bet interrogators and their superiors," the mass-circulation Yedioth Ahronoth said.

The left-wing Al Hamishmar daily compared the Nafsu case with France's Dreyfus Affair in the 1890s, in which an officer was wrongly convicted by a French court of treason and sent to Devil's Island on the basis of false testimony.

"The time has come to clean the stables before (Shin Bet) be-

comes a real danger to the freedom of the citizen and the maintenance of law and justice in the country," it said.

But one senior Israeli journalist, military correspondent Ron Ben-Yishai of Yedioth Ahronoth defended the security service in a commentary.

"Many people owe their lives not only to the quality of the information obtained by Shin Bet but mainly to the speed with which it succeeded in obtaining that information," he said.

"It may not be pleasant to admit, but one of the most important means of quickly obtaining intelligence is to apply pressure on the suspect, pressure of all sorts including physical violence and psychological manipulation," he wrote.

In a speech Monday, Shamir said too much public attention had been focused on Shin Bet in recent years.

"It must do its job in the shadows. It is healthier, more useful and more efficient," he said. "This does not mean that these people, as much as they are heroes, should be above criticism — No."

The attorney for Nafsu said Monday his client will file criminal complaints against a dozen agents if the state doesn't take action first.

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Kuwait's Ahmadi Port resumes operations

KUWAIT (R) — Work has resumed at key installations and a port shut down at Kuwait's main oil and gas export complex after a huge fire erupted on Friday night, the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) reported.

Kuwait said Sunday it had controlled the blaze which broke out at a highly-volatile propane gas storage tank at its \$1-billion liquefied petroleum gas plant in Ahmadi, 32 kilometres south of the capital. There were no casualties.

"As a result of removing the danger, the signal was given to resume work as normal for all industrial units near the incident," KUNA said late Sunday night.

It said work was suspended at the state-owned Ahmadi and Shuaiba oil refineries, the petrochemical industries plant and Shuaiba Port and personnel were evacuated during the fire.

KUNA quoted a senior Kuwaiti official as saying it resulted from an explosion in a pipe

leading to the gas tank, holding nearly 500,000 barrels of propane.

Oil facilities at or near Ahmadi have been targets of several bombings in the past year.

Sixteen Kuwaiti men, four of them still at large, are on trial for a string of explosions which set off a big blaze at the Ahmadi refinery last June and blasts in January which caused small fires at offshore and desert oil sites nearby.

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Royal Theatre Company to entertain for Eid with staging of Brecht's Threepenny Opera

By Mag Abu Hamdan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Bertolt Brecht's famous and highly amusing libretto "The Threepenny Opera" will be the Royal Theatre Company's latest production. To be staged over Eid Al Fitr at the Royal Cultural Centre, the musical is directed by Vanessa Batrouni and Company, an amateur group who have become well-known for their professional approach to theatre.

With music by Kurt Weill, "The Threepenny Opera" was first performed in Berlin in 1928. It was an immediate triumph and in the five years following its creation, the work was performed over 10,000 times in Europe and translated in 18 different languages.

In 1930 a film version was made and in 1954 it opened on Broadway to run for an unprecedented seven continuous years.

Brecht adapted "The Threepenny Opera" from John Gay's musical play, "The Beggar Opera" which was first performed in 1728. Gay's play satirized the habits of polite London society and the corrupt politics of the day, a satire that Brecht updated and redirected to attack social conditions in pre-World

War II Germany.

The socio-political message of the play is now, however, as Mrs. Batrouni says, a museum piece applying perhaps to other countries but not any longer to Europe. The opera is more relevant to contemporary audiences perhaps because it is classic of its genre and almost certainly because it is so much fun.

"I think Brecht really enjoyed writing this piece and the messages were added as a sort of afterthought," Mrs. Batrouni related the Jordan Times. "I've enjoyed doing it too, mainly because Brecht has made fun of everything that's awful, or in the worst possible taste. It's anti-hero, anti-romantic and anti-establishment. I also enjoyed the fact that the play is written from the angle of a sub-culture, the members of which, because they are outside all that is run of the mill are thus able to view society so much more objectively."

"The Threepenny Opera" belongs to the genre of theatre, known as epic theatre, a term that applies to plays that strive to divorce themselves from the realistic theatre, the slice of life plays that were true to the minutest detail from writers such as Chekov that prevailed at that time.

"Brecht always wanted the audience to realise that this was theatre, not real life," Mrs. Batrouni explained. "He didn't want people to get emotionally involved; he wanted them to remain cold and detached and to achieve this he used shock tactics like posters coming down with different announcements, actors saying things out of context and a narrator who constantly makes you aware that you are being told a story."

"We took Brecht's ideas of alienation one step further. By having the actors changing characters and making that change on stage in front of everyone, we ensured the audience will never get involved with any one character. What we have finally, if you like, is a story being told by a storyteller with the actors acting out the various hits and pieces."

The story is straightforward, relating the adventures of Macbeth, the leader of a band of beggars. By marrying Polly Peachum, he incurs the wrath of her father, "London's king of beggars" who controls the activities of these wretches by furnishing them with the rags and know-how they need in exchange for a substantial percentage of their take.

The father Peachum has Mack

arrested and thrown in prison where the jailer's daughter helps free him in return for the promise that he will marry her. Peachum, however, by threatening the chief of police, manages to get Macbeth recaptured and sentenced to death, a fate he escapes by a cynically happy ending in which he is not only acquitted but raised to the peerage.

Throughout the plot runs the wonderful jazz score of Kurt Weill, a score which conveys perfectly the idea of the play without losing any of the immediate and immense appeal of any of the individual songs. Kurt Weill went on to be one of the outstanding composers of American popular songs.

"The Threepenny Opera" is a witty, clever and amusing musical play full of ironic touches that has entertained and stimulated audiences for more than half a century. The Royal Theatre Company's version should not be missed.

Performances of "The Threepenny Opera" can be seen on Thursday through Sunday, May 28-31, in the Studio Theatre at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:30 p.m. Tickets at JD 3 for adults and JD 1.5 for students are obtainable from the Royal Cultural Centre.

Jordan celebrates Independence Day

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Monday celebrated the 41st anniversary of its independence from Britain. Celebrations were held in different parts of the Kingdom to mark the occasion and all government departments and public institutions remained closed.

Jordanian towns and cities were bedecked with portraits of His Majesty King Hussein, flags and other decorative signs to mark the occasion.

King Hussein Monday received cables of good wishes from kings and heads of state of Arab and foreign nations.

In their cables, these leaders wished the King health and happiness, and wished further prosperity for the Jordanian people.

The congratulatory cables came from King Hassan II of Morocco, Sultan Qaboos of Oman, Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Algerian President Chadli Benjedid, North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh, President of the United Arab Emirates Sheikh Zayed Ibn Sultan Al Nahayan, Emir of Kuwait Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah and Emir of Qatar Sheikh Khalifa Ibn Hamad Al Thani.

The King also received cables of congratulations from Sultan Alexander of Malaysia, Turkish President Kenan Evren, President of Bangladesh Hussain Mohammad Ershad, President of the Maldives Ma'moun Abdul Qayyum, Japan's Emperor Hirohito, Her Majesty Queen Beatrix of Holland, King Birendra of Nepal, the Supreme Soviet Council and Romanian President Nicolai Ceausescu. He received



His Majesty King Hussein Monday attended an iftar banquet hosted by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai at the Prime Ministry on the occasion of Independence Day. The banquet was attended by Prince Mohammad, the Personal Representative of His Majesty the King, Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi, Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Akel Al Fayez, former prime ministers, Chief of the Royal Court Marwan Al Qasbi, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid and the Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker. Also attending

were the King's brothers, Crown Prince Prince Shiekh Hamad Ibn Issa Al Khalifeh and Greek President Christos Sartzetakis. Congratulatory cables also were received from Commander of the Palestine Liberation Army in Jordan Brigadier Na'im Al Khatib and Commander of the Karameh Forces Lieutenant Colonel Jehril Sbalash.

the iftar were Chief Islamic Justice Sheikh Mohammad Mbeilan, Upper and Lower House members, Islamic and Christian religious leaders, ministries' under secretaries, directors of government departments, provincial governors, presidents of Jordanian universities, heads of municipal councils, representatives of charitable societies, of professional and sports and youth associations, and of the economic sector, leaders and personalities of the Palestinian refugee camps in the country, and heads of diplomatic missions (Petra photo).

The King also received cables of congratulations from King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand, Cypriot President Cyprus Kyprianou, United Arab Emirates (UAE) Vice-President and Prime Minister Sheikh Rashid Ibn Sa'id Al Maktoum, Qatari Crown Prince and Defence Minister Sheikh Hamad Ibn Khalifeh Al Thani, Bahraini Prime Minister Sheikh Khalifeh Ibn Sal-

American inquiry team arrives in Baghdad seeking answers

(Continued from page 1)

for two days, the sources added. The sources said the team arrived from Bahrain. But they would not say if they visited the crippled frigate, anchored three nautical miles off Bahrain.

The puzzle the team will seek to resolve include:

— Why was the attacking warplane in the central sector of the Gulf, an area under the usual hunting ground of Iraqi fighter-bombers looking to attack Iranian tankers?

— How many Iraqi planes were involved?

— Why did the Iraqi pilot, or pilots, ignore two warning signals transmitted by the Stark which identified the ship as a U.S. vessel?

Meanwhile, U.S. Senator James Sasser flew home Monday after a lightning visit to Kuwait to gauge the risks involved in reg-

istering Kuwaiti tankers under the American flag to protect them against Iranian attacks.

As Mr. Sasser flew out of Bahrain, a delegation of staff members of the Armed Services Committee was heading for the Stark for a deeper probe of whether the warship could have averted the Iraqi-fired missiles.

The Democratic senator from Tennessee told a press conference Sunday that he had been unable to tell whether the Stark could have prevented the Iraqi missile attack.

He also said the United States was interested in seeing its Western allies and traditional friends among the Arab Gulf states share the risks of guaranteeing freedom of navigation in the oil-rich region against the spillovers of the Iran-Iraq war.

In Kuwait, Mr. Sasser had three separate meetings with the

crown prince and prime minister, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sahab, Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Khalifa Al Sahab and the minister of state for foreign affairs, Saud Al Ossaimi.

Mr. Ossaimi later told reporters in Kuwait that Mr. Sasser assured the Kuwaiti leadership of the U.S. determination to protect freedom of navigation in the Gulf, and ensure the flow of oil shipments to industrialized countries. The Senate voted 91-5 last Thursday against the Reagan administration's plan to allow Kuwait to operate half its 22-tanker fleet under the U.S. flag to gain the protection of American warships in the Gulf.

Mr. Sasser told a news conference on Monday that the vote had been misread — "there has been some misinterpretation."

He explained: "The Senate... simply instructed the Reagan administration to report back to Congress as to the extent of the risk involved in escorting Kuwaiti vessels, to examine questions of possible air cover for American naval vessels in the Gulf and also the possibility of a multi-national approach."

Mr. Sasser said a multi-national approach could encourage other maritime powers who were traditional buyers of Gulf oil to join in protecting supplies through the strategic waterway. He mentioned Britain, France and Italy specifically.

Mr. Sasser ruled out cooperation with Moscow, saying it was self-sufficient in oil.

At his news conference shortly before leaving for Washington, Mr. Sasser said the evidence so far pointed overwhelmingly to a mistake.

As to what could have been done to foil the attack, he said: "There's been no determination on that."

Meanwhile, top U.S. and Iranian officials disagree on whether putting U.S. flags on Kuwaiti tankers in the Gulf will further risk U.S. involvement in the Iran-Iraq war.

The U.S. move has worried some congressmen, who fear it

will give the impression that the United States is taking sides in the Gulf war.

"If my country has the intention of attacking a Kuwaiti tanker, it will continue with that policy, regardless of whose flag it is carrying. And we hope that an impartial flag will not be involved," said Rajai-Khorassani, the Iranian ambassador to the United Nations, said Sunday on the U.S. television network ABC's "This Week With David Brinkley."

U.S. Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger, speaking on the U.S. television network NBC's "Meet the Press," said the U.S. support for Kuwait would discourage Iran from attacking out of fear of a possible U.S. retaliatory strike.

"Iran, I'm sure, would not want to take the consequences," Mr. Weinberger said. "But the simple fact of the matter is that they (the Iranians) have not, with all of their irrationality, as yet attacked American ships — American warships or American commercial ships."

Mr. Weinberger also warned that the United States will retaliate if Iran attacks a U.S. ship in the Gulf.

"We would regard it as a hostile act which would be responded to immediately or even prior thereto," Mr. Weinberger said. However, Mr. Weinberger stressed that the recent U.S. pledge to protect Kuwait oil tankers in the Gulf by bringing them under the U.S. flag was intended to deter a war rather than start one.

He said he believed the U.S. "resolve to respond to any kind of hostile activity" had "very much improved" the chances of Kuwait's tankers passing through the Gulf region unharmed.

"The question really is, are we strong enough and do we have enough resolve to take the actions necessary to deter war," Mr. Weinberger said.

"And I think we are and I think thus far we have displayed very clearly our determination to take that kind of action," he said.

Faithful begin watching for moon to end Ramadan

AMMAN (J.T.) — People will watch for the moon of Shawwal, the Arabic month falling after the fasting month of Ramadan, as of tonight. A communique issued by Chief Islamic Justice Sheikh Mohammad Mbeilan called on all citizens to watch for the moon of Shawwal, which marks the end of the fasting month of Ramadan and the beginning of the 'Eid Al Fitr.

Sheikh Mbeilan invited Ministers of Awqaf and Affairs Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat, and senior officials, including

Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rawabdeh, Under Secretary of the Ministry of Interior Ahmad Aqailah, Amman Governor Mohammad Al Amin and senior military and civil officials to join in watching for the moon of Shawwal.

Chief Islamic Justice also requested all Sharia court judges to arrange for opening Sharia courts on Tuesday evening to receive citizens who might see the moon of Shawwal. If the moon is seen tonight, then it means that 'Eid Al Fitr will fall on Wednesday; otherwise it will be on Thursday.

Policewomen's institute moves to new headquarters

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Policewomen Institute on Jabal Hussein will move to a new location at Hay Nazzal, another district of Amman, after the Eid Al Fitr holiday, according to a report in Al Rai Arabic daily. The report quoted a spokesman for the Public Security Department (PSD) as saying that the new headquarters have better facilities for training and housing the policewomen.

The new premises contains spa-

cious lecture halls and rooms for sports and military training, and can accommodate 500 trainees, the report said.

It added that the present policewomen's uniforms will be changed also but this will not take place before 1989. According to the spokesman, the present institute on Jabal Hussein will serve as a security centre for the Jabal Al Hussein district, one of the largest in the capital.

King returns from Saudi visit

(Continued from page 1)

Upon his departure from Saudi Arabia, King Hussein sent a cable to King Fahd expressing profound appreciation for the hospitality accorded to him and the Jordanian delegation during their visit, and the opportunity the visit offered for holding talks on matters of interest to the Arab

Nation. The King described the talks and meetings as part of the two countries' efforts for achieving joint Arab action. He said that he was proud of King Fahd's role in exerting efforts for ending Arab differences and re-establishing Arab solidarity in the service of the Arab and Islamic nations.

Kinnock remarks spark row

(Continued from page 1)

States to remove its nuclear weapons was finding little favour with the electorate.

In a television interview on Sunday, Mr. Kinnock said that the choice facing Britain in the event of attack was "either exterminating everything that you stand for... or using the resources you've got to make any occupation totally untenable."

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, asked to comment on Mr. Kinnock's remarks, said: "It

seems to me like a policy of surrender because you can't have guerrillas until you have been occupied."

Mr. Kinnock himself, campaigning in Glasgow, Scotland, told newsmen: "What I said is what is common knowledge in military quarters and political quarters... that the occupation of Western Europe would be untenable."

He added: "We think it's important to keep defence on the agenda because we consider that the defence of our country and the participation in NATO is very important."

Weinberger reassures Europe

(Continued from page 1)

British Defence Minister George Younger said after a NATO meeting in Norway this month that additional bombers and submarines would be among steps considered by NATO to maintain its policy of flexible response to attack.

Mr. Weinberger said Monday Western allies should also dismiss fears that the United States would be split from its Western allies by any agreement to remove SS-20s and U.S. medium-range Pershing-2 and cruise missiles from Europe.

"With over 330,000 American troops stationed here (Western Europe), the idea of a Europe de-coupled from America is as absurd as it is wrong," he said.

Tuesday's semi-annual meeting of the NATO defence planning committee to discuss conventional warfare preparedness follows a meeting of NATO's nuclear planning group at Stavanger, Norway, to try to work out a common NATO position on superpower nuclear arms talks.

No such common position has been reached yet, although the defence ministers at Stavanger called on the Soviet Union to remove all of its SS-20s from both Europe and Asia.

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Reason to be hopeful

WHAT better occasion is there than *Lailat Al Qadr* (the night between the 26th and 27th of Ramadan, when the Holy Koran was revealed to the Prophet Muhammad) to sue for Arab solidarity and attempt to close Arab and Islamic ranks? That is exactly what His Majesty King Hussein did when he travelled to Mecca on the 27th of Ramadan, the Holy Month of fasting, to both perform the Umra and to hold talks with King Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia on means to settle inter-Arab differences and prepare the way for an Arab summit. One would have wished that all the Arab leaders had made such a pilgrimage at this critical time in Arab history. But it seems this wish will have to wait a little longer before it can be realised.

The prospects for holding the long-awaited 13th Arab summit are better than they have been for some years, according to Arab League Secretary-General Chadli Klibi, who announced recently that most Arab countries have agreed to attend the summit and that the chances of holding it before the end of this year look very good. "Inshallah," we say, in unison with all those Arabs who have been yearning for Arab solidarity for so long and who are collectively entering this word with maximum solemnity and piety.

In a few days 'Eid Al Fitr will begin. It will be time for spiritual meditation and determination to move forward in the path of righteousness and brotherly relations between all Arabs. It also could very well be a time for much rejoicing for all of us if the foundation laid by Their Majesties King Hussein and King Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz in their Mecca talks could be further strengthened and consolidated by the other Arab leaders.

Nothing can strengthen inter-Arab relations more than the solution of outstanding problems between Iraq and Syria on the one hand, between Syria and the Palestinians on the other hand and between Morocco and Algeria on another level. The elimination of such differences would constitute the pillars on which the edifice of true and strong Arab relations could be constructed.

We can only be confident that His Majesty's trip to Saudi Arabia on Sunday has contributed towards this end, and that Amman and Riyadh would continue their determined efforts to eliminate disagreements among Arab states. All in all the future for inter-Arab relations can only look better and brighter. And what better occasion to be confident and hopeful over positive developments in the Arab World than during this Holy Month and 'Eid Al Fitr.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Our dearest occasion

THE Jordanian family today lives through its dearest occasion — the anniversary of Independence Day which came on May 25, 1946. Jordanians take pride in this day which bears sublime meanings and reminds them of the struggles and the sacrifice which were offered, and the martyrs who fell in the process of winning independence and freedom. The anniversary is a reminder that all the efforts which have been exerted in the past led to freedom for the country and delight for the future generations. We are indebted to those who struggled and helped us to enjoy independence and freedom. Since 1946, the Jordanian people have been living through joy and suffering, through hope and pain, and through steadfastness and sacrifice but in genuine cohesion and unity under the Hashemite leadership. Jordan has served and continues to serve as an edifice of freedom and a dam that repels aggression and invaders, and a protector of the Arab Homeland. Jordanians have the right to be joyful today for what has been achieved under the Hashemite leadership and have the right to hope and aspire to greater delight when the usurped Arab land is returned to its lawful owners.

Al Dustour: Renewed pledge

JORDAN today celebrates Independence Day with the Jordanian people renewing the pledge for continued work and struggle and allegiance to the leader of this country. This is a dear occasion for the Jordanian people who look back with pride over the past years during which great efforts were exerted and sacrifices offered for the achievement of prosperity. Over the past four decades Jordan has been struggling for development but has been true to its national commitments and sincere to the principles of the Great Arab Revolt and careful to implement the mission of the leaders of that revolt. Jordan has inherited the Great Arab Revolt, and the Kingdom's record of achievements over the past 40 years point clearly to the fact that the leaders of this country have been bent on achieving the revolt's objectives. On the Arab front, Jordan, under King Hussein, has been and will continue to be a catalyst for Arab unity, striving hard to help Arabs achieve their aspirations. This anniversary is an occasion for the Jordanian family to renew the pledge for further efforts and sacrifice for an even brighter future.

Sawt Al Shaab: Freedom and unity

THE independence of Jordan came on May 25, 1946, at a time when the Zionists were preparing to usurp Arab land in Palestine and dangers were in the offing threatening the Arab Nation. Jordan was fortunate to be led by the Hashemite family with its sincere determination to defend the Arab Homeland and to bring prosperity for the country. Under King Hussein Jordan has been striving to achieve the objectives of the Great Arab Revolt which aimed at attaining freedom and unity for the Arabs. The Hashemites who bore the standards of that revolt took upon themselves to pursue the struggle to defend the Arab territory and to establish a nucleus for Arab unity. Over the past 40 years, the Hashemites have been able to create economic and social development that serves as an example for other countries in the region. On the Arab front Jordan has been pursuing all possible efforts for unifying Arab ranks and strengthening Arab solidarity, helping the Arab countries in its wars against the common enemy.

Killing Arabs, rather than subduing them, is simpler for Israelis

By Hugh Schofield

SINCE the beginning of December 1986 seven Palestinians have been shot dead by Israeli soldiers during demonstrations in the occupied territories. Tens of others were injured. Five of the fatalities occurred when troops opened fire with live ammunition on crowds of stone-throwing youths. The army claims that in each case standing regulations were observed, and soldiers shot only when their lives were in danger. But the sheer number of the casualties, and the seeming ease with which soldiers were allowed to open fire, have drawn unprecedented international criticism. They have also prompted widespread calls for the adoption of more humane, and indeed more conventional, methods of riot control.

The criticism has centred on three key questions. First, what are the standing procedures, apparently so rigorously adhered to, governing the use of live ammunition against demonstrators? Second, what intermediate measures are there available to Israeli troops before they resort to live bullets, and why are they seemingly so ineffectual? And third, why does Israel still refuse to set up specially trained riot squads, on the Northern Ireland or South Korean models, for coping with violent demonstrations, but continues to use ordinary army reservists, ill-trained and ill-equipped for the job?

For all three questions Israel has produced an arsenal of well-rehearsed and logical rejoinders. But, as with so much of Israeli policy in the occupied territories, the logic is grounded on a very limited and self-serving array of premises. For the Palestinian, whose life may be ultimately at stake, the Israelis betray little more than a cynical and contemptuous disregard.

According to the handbook issued to soldiers serving in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, there are two occasions on which they

may open fire. The first is if a commander feels that the lives of his men are in danger. The second is if a soldier has clearly identified a "security suspect" who is running away. In both cases, the soldier must first shout twice that he is going to shoot, and then fire warnings shots in the air. Only after that may he shoot at the target, and then directing his aim at the lower part of the body.

Disregarding that the seven demonstrators who were killed, as well as many of the wounded, were hit in parts of the body that can only be described as upper, the fact still remains that these guidelines, even if observed to the letter, leave open a huge latitude for interpretation. When, for instance, is a soldier to regard his life in danger? And what precisely constitutes a "security suspect"?

Why does Israel still refuse to set up specially trained riot squads?

Some light on the first of these problems was shed by two incidents reported recently in the Israeli press. On 11 February Joel Greenberg of the Jerusalem Post described a clash that took place the day before between troops and students at Al Najah University in Nablus. The soldiers, he wrote, "wore helmets and stood behind walls or out of range of most of the stones thrown, while others easily dodged stones that landed near them." They did not appear to be "in an immediate life-threatening situation," but nevertheless "relied heavily on live fire to disperse the crowd."

An even more revealing insight into the flexibility of the regulations came in another incident observed by Greenberg and by

Ori Nir of *Haaretz*, who by chance overheard a discussion between a group of soldiers and their commander. The men were reconstructing an incident in which a soldier had been grabbed from behind by a young Arab. The soldier had quickly turned, cocking his gun, and the Arab had been easily wrestled to the ground and taken off. But the commander impressed on the soldier that he would have been perfectly within his rights to kill the man. "People would have thanked you for it," he is quoted as saying. "It doesn't make a difference whether he was armed or not. In such cases don't think twice about opening fire." If these are the types of incident when an Israeli soldier may legitimately regard his life as in danger and open fire on Palestinians, then the extent of the casualties of the last five months becomes suddenly more explicable.

A similar flexibility, it appears, applies to the second of the two provisions for opening fire — clear identification of a fleeing security suspect. Under military law anybody taking part in a demonstration is committing a security offence, even if he is timidly mouthing slogans at the back of the crowd. Anybody therefore, at least on paper, is liable to be fired as if he disregards a warning. Or do soldiers only open fire on suspected rock-throwers? Again, the terms of the regulations allow for a worryingly liberal interpretation.

The Israeli army prides itself on its exhaustive investigative procedures following the use of live ammunition. Each case is thoroughly examined, and if a soldier is found to have been in breach of the regulations, then he is open to formal charges. But on no occasion in the last five months have such charges been brought. Nor, until there is a much more rigorous and better defined set of guidelines, is anyone likely to be. And soldiers will

keen shooting at Arabs because they know they can get away with it.

Israel does have a range of "intermediate" responses at its disposal for coping with disturbances in the occupied territories, including tear-gas, rubber bullets and water-cannons. The first two are used regularly; the last was seen for the first time in the outbreak of unrest in mid-February in Gaza. However, the use of these measures has been restricted because of doubts over their effectiveness, and by limitations in their availability.

According to the army, tear-gas is occasionally useful, but it is completely dependent on the wind. Moreover, demonstrators have developed an efficient system for dealing with tear-gas grenades, which they either douse with buckets of sand and water, or else, occasionally, lob back at the army. The army, hopelessly unprepared and without masks, beats a hasty retreat. Palestinians also carry raw onions for countering the effects of the gas.

As for rubber bullets, the army points out that their range is no more than 30 or 40 metres, while a demonstrator can hurl a rock considerably further: than that. And water-cannons, while effective, are unwieldy and unsuitable for the winding alleyways of Palestinian refugee camps. For these reasons, and because on budgetary grounds supplies of the equipment are not always available in the necessary quantities, soldiers soon find themselves with little choice but to resort to live ammunition.

Aside from the cynicism of a policy that puts lives in danger for the sake of money (of which more later), there must also be the suspicion that Israel is shirking its responsibility in not devising and adopting less dangerous methods of crowd control. Other countries have faced similar problems without resorting to such extremes.

Many Israeli politicians recognise this fact, and with luck the growing debate could lead to changes. As the minister for communications, Professor Amnon Rubinstein, put it recently: "Today there are means to confront this problem without the need to use live ammunition on demonstrators... Israel, with its military potential and its ability to improvise, must follow other countries and acquire such means... It is vital not only for the Arabs; it is also vital for us."

The final question, why Israel has not created special riot control units but continues to use what are in effect battle field tactics to subdue demonstrators, is potentially the most controversial, bearing as it does on Israel's very perception of its role in, and relationship with, the West Bank and Gaza. There are after all important political implications in setting up special riot units. As long as the regular army is used to control the territories, it can at least be argued that Israel still sees the land as occupied, perhaps temporarily. The move to civil units could be interpreted as a step towards internalising the whole problem. While for that reason it might be welcomed by the right, the move has been considered up to now too portentous to provoke any change in the status quo.

That, however, is not the reason — or certainly not the main reason — why for 20 years the defence establishment has used regular units of army reservists, as well as small detachments of border guards, to control the territories. The results of that policy have been all too plain over the past few months. Time and again, young and inexperienced soldiers, trained for conventional confrontations with conventional armies, have found themselves vastly outnumbered by crowds of rock-throwing boys. Scared, they respond in the only way they know how — with con-

ventional battlefield tactics. As critics of the policy have tirelessly pointed out, properly trained riot squads would simply not have allowed themselves to fall into that sort of trap. The prime rule in these circumstances is to avoid direct contact with rioters until sufficient forces have been gathered, and then to make lightning grab raids into the crowd, protected by helmets, clubs and shields. It may be brutal stuff, but at least no one gets killed.

Israel knows all this perfectly well. According to the army, the reason it has not adopted what is after all a perfectly conventional practice is not that it does not recognise its effectiveness, but simply because it cannot afford to. It is all a question of priorities. In an ideal world, the army says, Israel would indeed have special squads for riot control. But it is not an ideal world. Israel does not have the money, or the manpower and time, to train such units. Within its limited resources, the Israeli defence forces must continue to be trained the way they are now — to confront Arab armies, not public disorders.

This, then, is what lies at the bottom of Israel's tactics in the territories — budgetary priorities. It is of course the same problem that confronts every other sector of Israeli life — industry, agriculture, the kibbutzim, the universities. Why be so surprised that it effects the occupied territories in this way too? The answer is because in this instance people are dying — people who, if the Israeli government was prepared to spend a certain amount of money, to tighten some of its regulations, and generally to show the same concern for Palestinian lives as it does for its own people, might otherwise very well have lived.

— Middle East International, London.

Who will succeed Nakasone?

By Mari Taketa
The Associated Press

TOKYO — Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone, defeated in his attempt to raise taxes and faced by economic deterioration and overseas trade friction, is widely expected to step down when his term expires in October.

But his Liberal Democratic Party, which has dominated Japanese politics since World War II, is certain to retain its leadership role.

The only question, according to political observers in Japan, is who will replace Nakasone as president of the Conservative Party and prime minister of the nation.

Nakasone's popularity has faded with the stubborn rise of the yen and his recent failed attempt to push through a sales tax. Some speculate that Nakasone, 68, might resign before the scheduled end of his fifth year in office in October.

The Japanese call the three most likely successors the new leaders, though they are neither new nor young. While they probably would not change party policy dramatically, all three would likely be less controversial than the outspoken Nakasone and more concerned with rule by consensus.

The three main contenders in the coming LDP race are: — Kiichi Miyazawa, Nakasone's 66-year-old finance minister and the man regarded as the most intellectual of the trio. His image has been tarnished by his close association with the sales tax and the soaring Japanese yen, which has hurt parts of Japan's economy. But Miyazawa, who comes from a bureaucratic background and speaks fluent English, is viewed as the man most capable of dealing with Japan's changing economic picture and its problems with trading partners.

— Shintaro Abe, 63, chairman of the LDP's executive council. Abe started out as a newspaper reporter, signed on a secretary to former Prime Minister Nobusuke Kishi and married Kishi's daughter. In four years as Nakasone's foreign minister he made 39 trips abroad, his influence rising steadily until his globetrotting diplomacy ended in a cabinet reshuffle last summer.

— Noboru Takeshita, 63, LDP secretary general. The son of a sake brewer, Takeshita taught English before he entered politics. As head of the influential finance ministry, he presided over the initial stages of the yen's coordinated rise against the U.S. dollar until Nakasone gave him the senior party post last summer. Takeshita is seen as a team player who values the Japanese tradition of consensus, but he has little international experience.

Prime minister, president duel in constitutional crisis

By Victoria Graham
The Associated Press

NEW DELHI, India — India's prime minister, privileged son of a political dynasty, is feuding with the president, a self-made and battle-scarred political boss, in a duel that soon may escalate from party to thrust to constitutional crisis.

The public basis for the conflict between Rajiv Gandhi and Zail Singh is the president's claim that Gandhi has violated the constitution by not keeping him informed on domestic and foreign-policy developments, an assertion Gandhi denies.

Behind the scenes, however, the battle between the 42-year-old Gandhi and 71-year-old Singh, both members of India's long-dominant Congress Party, is a battle for power at a time when Singh's term is running out and Gandhi's Congress Party faces a possible setback in an important state election.

It is a clash of personality, generation, politics and philosophy — and the first time since India's independence in 1947 that disagreements between president and prime minister have become so publicly acrimonious.

Columist Rajinder Puri of the Sunday Observer concluded: "We are approaching the biggest political crisis ever in India."

The presidency is a largely ceremonial post; the prime minis-

ter really runs the government. But the president wields moral authority and some power.

The constitution makes him armed forces commander-in-chief and gives him power to block legislation. The president also formally designates the prime minister, and some Indians suggest Singh might try to use the constitution to dismiss Gandhi.

That idea, largely discounted for now, casts a pall over a Gandhi government already beleaguered by charges of kickbacks on arms deals, mismanagement and troubles with Sikh radicals in Punjab state and with India's neighbours, Sri Lanka and Pakistan.

Gandhi lashed out at the president, unmistakably though not by name, at a massive rally May 16 when he denounced "forces of subversion against India" and lumped all his problems and detractors together as virtual traitors.

He clearly meant Singh as "the person who raised the question of the non-fulfillment of the constitution."

"No one can weaken our constitution," Gandhi said, adding that the prime minister would not be responsible "to any individual" — meaning Singh.

Insiders say Gandhi distrusts Singh because of his earlier role in murky manoeuvrings to elevate fundamentalist Sikh

preacher Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale — later termed India's most dangerous terrorist — to a position of power in troubled Punjab state. Bhindranwale was killed in an army attack on Punjab's Golden Temple in 1984.

In addition, the rough-edged Singh's humble background reportedly led Gandhi and the youthful technocrats around him to write off the president after they unexpectedly came to power in November 1984, following the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. She was Rajiv's mother and daughter of India's first prime minister, Jawaharlal Nehru.

When he took over, the British-educated, internationally minded Rajiv, an ex-airline pilot, was largely inexperienced in Indian politics, more used to blazers and neckties than to the Nehru jacket that politicians here favour.

By contrast, Singh grew up the son of a poor Sikh carpenter in Punjab, received no English education, but excelled in Sikh religious schools and earned the title "giani," or "learned one."

He rose through the rough-and-tumble of Punjab politics to become the state's chief minister, the top elected official, in 1972-1977, and federal home minister in 1980-1982.

The Gandhi-Singh showdown highlights what critics describe as

the prime minister's high-handed personal style and crude treatment of high-ranking officials.

The feud broke into the open last December when the president refused to sign into law a controversial mail censorship bill that Gandhi's government said would help fight violence in Punjab.

Singh also complained he was not informed on India's differences with Pakistan, on the Punjab situation, even on the official report on Mrs. Gandhi's assassination by her Sikh bodyguards.

In March, Gandhi told parliament: "There is no time when issues of national interest are kept away from the president. Ministers have been meeting the president continuously."

But Singh quickly followed with a letter to Gandhi, leaked to the press, that dismissed these assurances and said: "Certain well-established conventions have not been followed. ... Before your visits abroad and after your return, I have not been briefed. ... Even on important domestic issues, I have not been kept informed."

The feud got hotter still when charges arose over kickbacks allegedly paid Indian middlemen on arms contracts, and Singh exercised his constitutional right to information about a \$1.7-billion Swedish arms deal. News-

papers reported Gandhi refused, saying Singh had been told enough.

The Sunday Observer quoted reliable sources close to Singh as saying that if Gandhi wanted a stipend yes-man as president, "you could have put a donkey there to do the job instead."

Both camps are awaiting the outcome of elections next month in the state of Haryana, where Gandhi's Congress Party candidates are seen as underdogs. Gandhi suffered two state electoral defeats in March.

If the Congress Party loses or wins only marginally, Singh might make a strategic thrust.

Gandhi evidently hopes to hold off the president until his term expires July 24 and a new president is elected by votes in parliament and the state assemblies. Singh, vague on whether he is running for re-election, was recently quoted in the Sunday Observer as saying, "I will not relent. ... It is no longer between individuals, but between the president and prime minister."

It seems unlikely Singh could unseat Gandhi. But the Indian Express newspaper said Thursday the Congress Party leadership is concerned Singh might create a political-constitutional crisis "by suddenly quitting the post with an emotional appeal to the nation."

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Exocet is big seller among French weapons

By Sydney Rubin
The Associated Press

PARIS — The Exocet that hit the USS Stark in the Gulf, killing 37 Americans, is in demand worldwide because it is accurate, reliable and hard to detect or intercept, military experts have said.

The air-to-ship AM39 Exocet that hit the American frigate is the invention of French arms contractor Aerospatiale in collaboration with the French military.

Since it was put into production in 1980, the Exocet has become one of France's best-selling weapons.

By the end of 1981, it had been ordered by 25 nations including Iraq, Peru, Pakistan and Syria, according to the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies. French defence officials would not say how much it cost.

A spokesman for the French

defence ministry, speaking on condition of anonymity in line with government policy, declined to provide the names of countries currently buying Exocets, but said 2,000 had been sold since they were first marketed in 1980.

"It is a very, very important missile to us," the spokesman said. "It is very accurate, and when you launch the missile you know it will hit the target 99 per cent of the time. Everyone knows that."

The IISS's Don Kerr said French sales of the missile were boosted after the 1982 Falklands war in which the Exocet was used with devastating effect by Argentina against the British navy. The British warship Sheffield was set afire and sunk by an Exocet.

"Since then, the missile has become... extremely popular because it is difficult for radar to detect, impossible to see with the naked eye and hard to hit with conventional gunfire," Kerr said

in a telephone interview.

The AM39 model descends from a jetfighter, like the Iraqi F-1 jet, to fly by radar about 6 to 8 feet above the sea's surface. The missile is extremely accurate and designed to hit the side of a ship in its operations room, the nerve centre of a military vessel.

The missile that hit the Stark, travelling just under the speed of sound at 10 miles a minute, slammed into the left side of the ship about 20 feet above the waterline. It hit just below the ship's brain, its combat information centre.

The AM39, one of four types of Exocet missiles made by Aerospatiale, has a substantial blast and fragment warhead.

"Try to imagine what would happen in a computer room — which is what an operations centre on a ship is — if you bit it with a bomb then threw a couple of hundreds pounds of hot, sharp fragments in moving at a high

velocity, cutting through anything in their path," Kerr said.

"It would certainly put a computer room out of commission. It doesn't do people a lot of good either."

The French defence ministry declined to comment on the use of the AM39 against the U.S. vessel.

The only missile competing with the Exocet in performance is the U.S.-made Harpoon, initially put in operation in 1978, Kerr said.

Neither the French nor Kerr would speculate as to whether the Stark was adequately equipped to spot and destroy the AM39. But U.S. officials in Washington have said it was.

The Stark, a guided-missile frigate, is equipped with a Phalanx close-in weapon system, comprised of radar-controlled 20mm Gatling guns designed to hunt 3,000 rounds a minute at incoming missiles.

Murder or suicide? Artist's death plunge poses mystery

By Jonathan Lyons
Reuters

NEW YORK — Cuban-born artist Ana Mendieta once doused herself with blood, pulled a sheet over her head, lay down on a rooftop, and posed for photographs.

Eleven years later, in a chilling example of life imitating art, police carried her crumpled body from the rooftop of a Chinese restaurant in New York's Greenwich Village, 33 storeys beneath her open bedroom window.

The aftermath of her plunge on Sept. 8, 1985 — and the questions that continue to surround it — rocked the New York art world.

Was it a suicide by an impatient, hot-tempered artist who at age 35 had despaired of ever making it?

Or was it the murder of a woman, finally coming into her own as an artist, at the hands of her husband, minimalist sculpture pioneer Carl Andre?

Andre is due in court on May 20 for a preliminary hearing on a third indictment for the murder of his wife. The first two were thrown out on procedural grounds.

Armed with largely circumstantial evidence — including testimony from a doorman who says he heard a woman scream, "No, no," followed by a loud crash overhead — prosecutors say this is their last attempt to put Andre, now 50, on trial.

"This is the third time, this is it," said Mary de Bourbon, spokeswoman for the Manhattan prosecutor's office.

Andre, through his attorney, declined comment on the case.

"Carl Andre is a private person," said the lawyer, Jack Hoffinger, adding the artist is continuing to work in New York "as normally as possible."

Andre has told police his wife went into their bedroom after they quarrelled. He went in later, he said, but found only an open window.

Andre and Mendieta lived together for several years before marrying in January 1983, eight months before her death.

The fall, say friends and fellow artists, killed a woman who was full of life — not the type they would expect to commit suicide.

Ana Mendieta had overcome a turbulent childhood — her family sent her and her sister to a U.S. foster home after revolution broke out in Cuba — largely through her discovery of art.

"When I made art — whether it was good or bad, or (the teacher) didn't like it or whatever — I felt I had a power," she said in a 1980 interview.

Before her death, she had been producing "primitive-looking female forms, totems" in carved wood and earth, said Al Nodal, exhibitions director at the Otis Art Institute in Los Angeles.

In contrast to the well-established Andre, Mendieta had yet

to make a real name for herself. But things were beginning to happen. A prize, a first major commission a year at the prestigious American Academy in Rome.

"Her career was going full steam ahead," said Nodal, who had commissioned Mendieta to create a piece for a Los Angeles park. She died before she could carry out the commission.

Andre turned to sculpture at the age of 30 after a stretch in the army and work as a railroadman.

His detached style and low-key content helped give birth to the minimalist movement, which uses simple materials such as bricks and stones, mostly in their natural state.

The severity of the works has brought a measure of public derision. The Tate Gallery in London was roundly criticised for its purchase in 1976 of 120 bricks arranged in a rectangle.

The mayor of Hartford, Connecticut, was outraged by the state's \$7,000-dollar purchase of "stone field sculpture" for a local park, saying the work — rough boulders scattered on the grass — bled Hartford "international ridicule."

But critics and curators have felt otherwise. In 1965 Andre had his first one-man show and his work has been displayed at New York's Museum of Modern Art and in galleries in London, West Germany, Switzerland, Belgium, France and The Netherlands.

With no eyewitnesses and little direct evidence, the events of the hot and humid Saturday night that preceded Mendieta's death early that Sunday morning may remain a mystery.

At 5:30 a.m. police received a call from an hysterical man, screaming: "My wife committed suicide. She jumped out the window."

At the scene, police found Ana Mendieta dead on the roof of a Chinese restaurant, one flight above street level. A sample of her blood later showed a high level of alcohol.

Upstairs, officers found a messy flat, empty bottles, and Carl Andre, scratches on his face and hands.

Andre told investigators he and his wife had been drinking and quarrelling. She went into the bedroom while he watched television.

When he went in later, he discovered an open window and her body lying 33 storeys below, he said.

The affair has divided some groups in the New York art world.

Several big names — including painter Frank Stella — stood bail for Andre when a local judge refused to accept works of art in lieu of cash.

"It's a very emotional thing. A lot of us loved her very much and a lot of people felt the same way about him," said Nodal.

Colombian fossils unlock secrets of extinction of S. American animals

By Boris Weintraub
National Geographic

DURHAM, N.C. — To scientists, it is known as the great faunal interchange.

For more than 90 million years, South America was an island continent. With only a few exceptions, mammals that were on the continent when it separated from Africa evolved independently, and very differently, from the way they evolved elsewhere.

Then, 4 to 8 million years ago, the continents shifted once more, sea levels dropped, and most of Central America was formed, creating a land bridge. Now animals could go back and forth between North and South America, and many of them did. The result, from the point of view of Southern Hemisphere animals, was disaster: most of the uniquely South American mammal families became extinct.

questions are virtually unknown. Scientists have had many fossils from the pre-interchange period to study, but most of them are from Argentina's temperate regions, very different and very far from the tropical areas that animals moving from the continent to another had to pass through.

Now a major research expedition in Colombia, led by Duke University's Richard Kay, in cooperation with INGEOMINAS, a Colombian government agency, and supported by the National Geographic Society, is turning up evidence that may help provide some answers. Kay and his team have found more than 1,000 fossil specimens.

The fossils include primates, birds, fish, hoofed animals, snakes, anteaters, armadillos, crocodiles, and members of several uniquely South American families that lived in what is now Colombia's Magdalena River Valley about 15 million years ago.

Inevitably, they also have raised new questions. For example, creatures called condylarths, ancestral to all later South American hoofed mammals, became extinct in Argentina 45 or 50 million years ago. But Richard Cifelli, of the University of Okla-

homa's Stovall Museum, and Kay found jaws, teeth, and a nearly complete skeleton of a condylarth in Colombia. How had it survived for another 30 million years?

A fossilised fish jaw was identified by Duke ichthyologist John Lundberg as being from the same species as a still-living South American fish. But the fish today is known only in the Amazon and Orinoco Rivers east of the Andes, which rose in the last few million years, and not in the Magdalena River, between the central and eastern Andes ranges. How did it leave the Magdalena for the others? How did it survive so long?

Badlands once fertile

The region where Kay, Cifelli, and graduate student Rick Madden are working, a badlands known today as the Tatacoa Desert, was very different 15 million years ago. Apparently there were many trees and rivers, a wet, tropical environment.

"If you've got a connection emerging between North and South America, the connection is in the tropics," Kay explains. "The only way to know the full impact of the faunal interchange is to have a good idea of what the tropical animals of South America were like just before the

interchange."

Kay, a primatologist, was initially interested in finding the remains of New World monkeys. Primates and rodents were the only two mammal groups that made their way into South America after it became an island continent. Somehow they arrived there about 30 million years ago and evolved independently of their relatives elsewhere.

But the remains of New World monkeys are scant; virtually all of the South American monkey fossils known previously could fit into a shoebox.

University of California paleontologists had collected fossils, including a variety of primate, in the Magdalena valley in the 1940s and 1950s, but no systematic collecting had been done there since then. Kay hoped that, since South American monkeys now live in the tropics, a prehistoric tropical region would yield fossils of their ancestors.

He was correct. He has found the remains of adult and juvenile monkeys that are the largest known in South America, prodding him to reconsider the diversity of New World primates and how they got to be the way they are.

But primates are just a small part of what has turned up. For example, the expedition found half a dozen bird fossils, the first good look at tropical South American birds of the time.

Can't fly till dry

The only one identified so far by Tab Rasmussen, a Duke specialist in fossil birds, is an anginga, a bizarre creature that stabs fish with its beak. After getting wet, it can fly only after it climbs into a tree to dry off. Since the anginga is known to have existed in North America at the same time, its presence in Colombia suggests that birds moved back and forth between the two continents even though land mammals could not.

These are the kinds of problems Kay's team hopes to solve as it works in Colombia for another three years. Specialists are studying the fossils, trying to fill in the blanks of how animals evolved in South America for millions of years in what one expert has termed "splendid isolation."



Richard Cifelli (centre) and other members of a research expedition hunt for fossils in the Tatacoa Desert of Colombia — fossils that might help answer questions about tropical South American mammals that existed before North and South America were linked by land bridge (national geographic photo)

India fighting the crumbling of its history

By Mike Battenfeld
Reuters

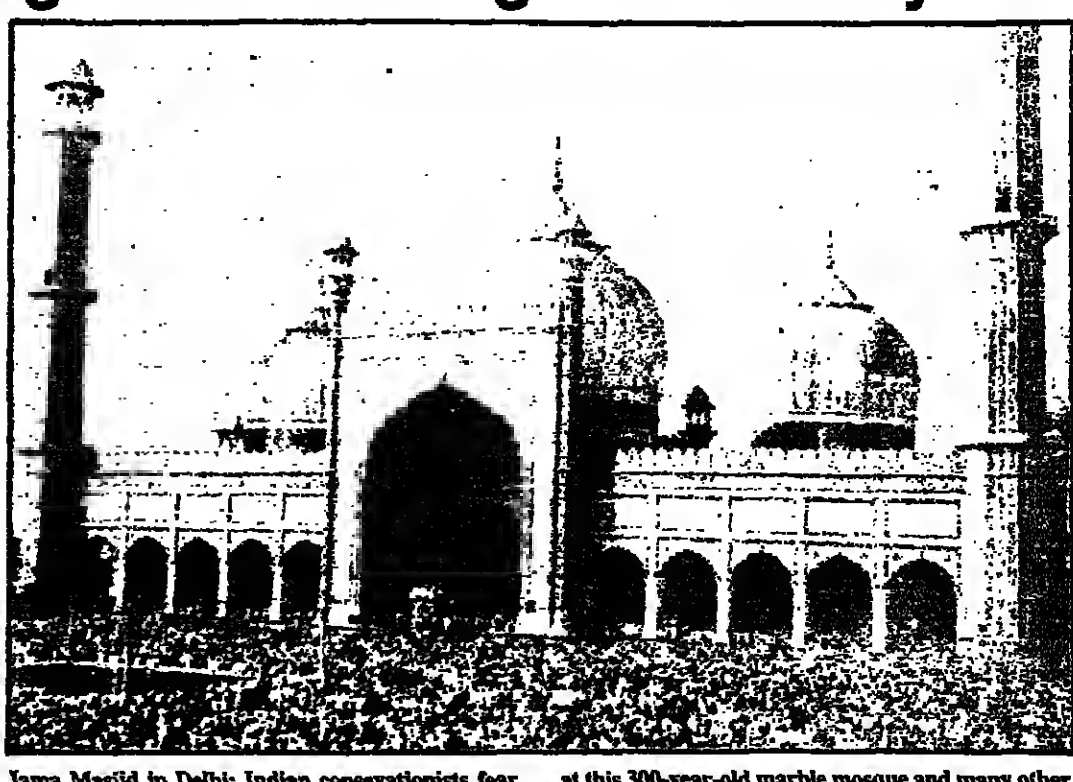
NEW DELHI — Every day a bit of Indian history crumbles away.

A fragment of marble falling from the Taj Mahal, a flock of colour lost from an ancient cave painting, a forgotten tomb eroding into scrub — time and the perils of modern life are taking their toll of 5,000 years of Indian civilisation.

One of the greatest threats to these monuments comes from tourists. Millions of Indians make pilgrimages to religious and historical sites every year and more than a million foreigners visited India last year.

Officials say restrictions might have to be imposed to preserve some of the more famous landmarks.

"We have to be careful," said Ramesh Chandra Tripathi, director-general of the Archaeological Survey of India, which safeguards the nation's most valuable monuments and excavates more of the past.



"Conservation work is continuous work," Tripathi told Reuters in an interview. "It's like the medical check-up of an old man."

The survey has under its jurisdiction 3,521 protected monuments, about 5,000 individual buildings, 10 of which are on the UNESCO "world heritage" list.

These range from the western Indian sites of the Indus Valley civilisation of the second millennium B.C. to the imposing structures of Moghul India.

Others include popular tourist spots such as Delhi's 13th-century 71-metre high Qutub Minar, the erotic temples at Khajuraho, the Ajanta and Ellora Buddhist temple caves and the 16th-century Portuguese colonial city of Old Goa.

A similar number of lesser monuments are protected and maintained by state governments, although India has so much history that ancient tombs and temples are sometimes allowed to decay, ignored or forgotten.

Popularity and India's industrialisation have taken their toll on Agra, the Moghul capital and site of the Taj Mahal, built in 1634.

The Taj Mahal has been suffering from over-exposure, both to too many tourists and to pollution caused by a ring of 250 coal-fired

foundries built in recent decades around emperor Akbar's old capital.

Visitors to the famed monument to Mumtaz Mahal, beloved wife of emperor Shahjahan, have long been asked to cover their shoes to protect the marble floors.

Officials are now considering preventing visitors from touching the exquisite precious stone inlays on the walls as well as putting off-limits the crypt, which holds the remains of Shahjahan and Mumtaz.

Belts of trees have been planted to mitigate the effects of industrial pollution, which Indian press reports have said threatened to discolour the mausoleum and loosen the marble. Recent visitors have picked up fragments of white marble that had apparently fallen from the facade.

Tripathi said a UNESCO team who recently surveyed the Taj Mahal and other threatened monuments concluded that the mausoleum was not threatened but that precautions should be taken.

"We're constantly monitoring the environment," he said, adding that further measures to protect the structure were also

being studied.

Also at risk, according to recent reports, are the 2,000-year-old Buddhist cave paintings at Ajanta, on the Deccan plateau 400 kilometres north-east of Bombay.

These remarkable paintings by monks who established a community in the remote hills depict Buddhist themes in the civilisation that flourished from the second century B.C. to the seventh century A.D.

The 29 caves forming the complex were lost for centuries but were discovered in 1819. Art historians consider the paintings among the finest examples of Buddhist art.

But success brings its own problems, and the weekly news magazine India Today called the caves a "monument to neglect," a charge denied by Archaeological Survey officials.

Visitors to the caves, however, have noticed deterioration and damage to the paintings, some caused by time and nature, and some by visitors — up to 5,000 people tramp through them every day in the high tourist season.

India Today published photographs from 1930 that clearly showed the paintings had faded considerably since then. The

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Langer spreadeagles golf field for victory

WENTWORTH, England (R) — Bernhard Langer of West Germany spreadeagled the field with his remorseless consistency and won his personal battle with Sevy Ballesteros for a four-shot victory in the British PGA Championship on Monday.

Langer, so often the victim in past head-to-head battles with Ballesteros, took a two-shot lead into the final day and extended it with a closing five-under-par round of 67 to take the title for the first time.

His 72-hole total of 270, comprised of rounds of 66-69-68-67, was 18-under-par and gave him a record aggregate for Wentworth's 6,945 yards west course and the best total for the PGA event since records began in 1955. It has been played at Wentworth for the past four years.

"It is a great satisfaction to have won against Sevy but I've got more pleasure from the way I've played," said Langer, who may soon face surgery for a back complaint. "My short game was tremendous all week and I have felt very comfortable with my game throughout."

Ballesteros commented: "With

that score this week, no one could have beaten Bernhard. His four rounds were unbelievable and the course was not playing easy this week."

Ballesteros, who won this title in 1983, closed with a three-under-par 69 and a total of 274, good enough to have taken the crown in all but one of the past 32 years.

Jose-Maria Canizares of Spain, with a 69, and Peter Senior of Australia with a 66 tied for third place on 278, another four shots behind.

There was a four-way tie for fifth on 280 between Australians Ian Baker-Finch and Wayne Grady, American Rick Hartmann and Ken Brown of Britain.

"I lost it there. I had no chance after that," he said. His tee shot was off the green in a dip, and his first chip hit a branch and rolled back to his feet. He needed another pitch and two putts.

Both birdied the long 12th and though the Spaniard rolled in a 40-foot birdie putt from the fringe at the 14th, and collected another birdie at 17, his hopes had gone.

Without sounding bitter, Ballesteros said he could have won two or three more events this

year. "My game has been very good, but it seems to me that every week someone different comes through and plays their best to beat me."

"But no one in the world could have beaten Bernhard here," he added, saying he was happy to have ensured his place for the European Ryder Cup team to meet the Americans at Muirfield village, Ohio, in September.

Ballesteros' win Monday also boosted him back to the top of the European money list with £90,449 (\$151,050).

Australian Peter Fowler equalled the course record of 64 in the final round.

Langer, the 1985 U.S. Masters Champion who is ranked third in the world — one below Ballesteros — earned £36,000 (\$61,230) for his first victory in Europe this year.

Ballesteros collected £24,440 (\$40,800) for his fifth top three finish in five European events this season.

His only victory was in the Cannes Open last month. He also had a third-place finish at the U.S. Masters last month, where he lost on the first hole of a

three-way sudden death playoff. Langer said he had no trouble over the last two rounds with the back injury which he felt on the eve of the tournament might require surgery this year. "I'm not planning an operation now," he said.

"This was probably my best four-day performance. Four rounds like that on this golf course, it's among the best I've ever achieved," he said.

"It was important to beat Sevy because I've never beaten him on this golf course head-to-head," added Langer, who has lost three times to Ballesteros in the world matchplay events.

"When he took double bogey on the 10th and I birdied the 11th to go six ahead, I felt I could only lose with a lot of mistakes," he added. "My putting was very strong and my caddy said it was the best he'd seen from me this year."

Langer's two-shot overnight advantage was stretched to three when he birdied the second hole and they each had one more birdie on the front nine. But Ballesteros' hopes were snuffed out at the short 10th.

Bayern moves Hans forward as striker

MUNICH, West Germany (R) — Bayern Munich trainer Udo Lattek Monday sprang a major surprise by naming left-back Hans Pflueger as a striker for Wednesday's European Cup final in Vienna with Porto of Portugal.

Pflueger, 27, who recently won his first cap for West Germany, steps into the place of top scorer Roland Wohlfarth who pulled a muscle four minutes from time in Saturday's 3-0 win

over Waldhof Mannheim in the West German League.

Danish signing Lars Lundebad been expected to play up front alongside veteran Dieter Hoernes.

Lattek made it clear the tall Pflueger, who has scored six goals this season, was chosen in attack for his heading ability. "We can't do anything against Porto on the ground," he said.

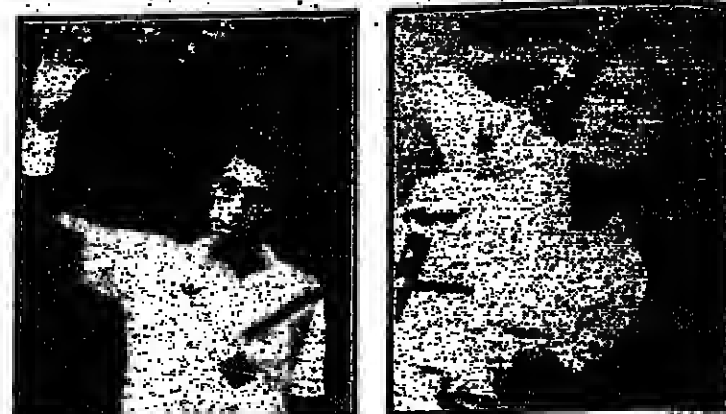
Turkish soccer fans go on rampage

ANKARA (R) — Soccer fans went on the rampage in the central Turkish town of Konya Sunday night, smashing shop windows and stoning police after the local team failed to win a league championship.

The semi-official Anatolian News Agency said 27 people were

detained, two policemen were injured by stones, a car was set on fire and offices attacked.

Konyaspor beat Tarsus Idmaniyuru 5-0 but failed to win the Second Division Group C Championship, losing by three goals on goal difference to Sakaryaspor.



Lendl, Graf make a promising start

Graf kicks off French Open with easy win

PARIS (AP) — Steffi Graf, looking for her first Grand Slam crown, scored a 6-1, 6-1 victory over Csilla Csereny on the opening day of the French Open Monday, where a seeded semifinalist from a year ago was quickly knocked out of the men's field.

The defending men's champion, Ivan Lendl, followed Graf onto the red clay centre court against Ronald Agener of Haiti.

On the other prime show court, 16th seeded Johan Kriek of the United States was ousted by Sweden's Joakim Nystrom 6-7, 6-2, 6-1, 6-1.

Also among the seeds, 15th-ranked Sylvia Hanika of West Germany beat Neige Dias of Brazil 6-1, 6-1.

Other seeded players in action on a warm, sunny spring afternoon included fourth-ranked Mats Wilander of Sweden, sixth-ranked Yannick Noah of France and 14th-ranked Martin Jaito of Argentina among the men, and seventh-seeded Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina, number 5 Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia and 10th-seeded Kathy Rinaldi of the United States among the women.

While Kriek, who lost to Lendl in a semifinal here a year ago, was seeded and Nystrom was not, the loss would hardly be considered an upset. Nystrom is just one spot below Kriek in the world rankings and is a much better clay-court player than his American foe.

The first-round elimination was bitter for Kriek, who called for rule changes to assure "that two players in the top 20 never again face each other in the first round of a Grand Slam tournament."

"Why should only 16 guys be seeded?" the Naples, Fla., veteran asked. "Is 16 that much better than 17? Joakim and I are world-class players, and here we are having to play each other right at the start."

Kriek added, however, that Nystrom had beaten him "fair and square." Nystrom had to set points in the first set before Kriek took it, and soared ahead in the second set as Kriek lost concentration and momentum. A missed backhand volley by Kriek gave Nystrom the match.

Graf, the number 2 women's seed who has won her last six tournaments, took less than an hour to beat Csereny.

Graf was not perfect but had little trouble stretching her winning streak to 33 matches as she relied on her pounding forehand.

Csereny, born in Egypt of Hungarian parents and now living in Switzerland, got to break point just once against the 17-year-old West German, and Graf saved that point.

Graf broke Csereny in the second and sixth games of the first set, and again in the first, fifth and seventh games of the second.

McEnroe coming soon to Paris

PARIS (AP) — Facing the possibility of a suspension and a heavy fine, John McEnroe arrived Monday for the French Open with the most recent demonstration of his fiery temper preceding him on tape.

McEnroe's won't start play until he meets Horacio De La Pena of Argentina Tuesday, but the American was the subject of a special meeting at the headquarters of the men's International Professional Tennis Council

(MIPTC) on the stadium grounds at Roland Garros.

Fines already imposed will stick no matter what the meeting decides. But if officials judge McEnroe's behaviour to be bad enough, they could suspend him for up to a year, and the ban could start before Wimbledon, authorities said.

The MIPTC meeting focused on McEnroe's behaviour in the final of the World Team Cup against Czechoslovakia Sunday.

Ageing Unser luckiest Indy 500 winner

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Al Unser is more than the oldest winner of the Indianapolis 500. He's more than only the second four-time winner of the Indianapolis 500. Al Unser is the luckiest winner of the Indianapolis 500.

And Mario Andretti is the unluckiest loser.

"Lady luck has to run your way sometimes, and this was one of those times," said Unser, who won in 1970, 1971 and 1978 but was without a ride after his contract with the Penske racing team expired last season.

Unser, who will be 48 on Fri-

day, never thought he would be in Sunday's race, let alone win it. He got the ride, supposedly a one-shot deal, just three days before the second weekend of time trials when Danny Ongais suffered a concussion in practice, and promptly qualified 22nd, in the middle of the seventh row.

Then came the race, marred by the first spectator fatality since 1960. Unser barely avoided a first-lap crash by two other drivers, then found himself in the right place when Andretti and then Roberto Guerrero were unable to hold leads that surely seemed safe late in the race.

"It's hard to believe," said Unser, who matched A.J. Foyt's record four victories and surpassed his brother, Bobby, as the oldest winner by nine months. "It's something you dream about. But it seemed it wouldn't come true because of all the problems."

But Unser was equally certain this one was his greatest victory. "They don't all blend together. This one here is more special. The older you get, the more you learn to appreciate them," Unser said.

It was the sixth victory for the Penske team. It was Andretti, who easily won the pole position for his 22nd Indy start, who was expected to run away with his second Indy victory.

And he nearly did, until his streak of bad luck continued with a broken fuel seal 23 laps from

the finish. "I couldn't touch him. There was nothing I could do with Mario at all," Unser said.

Andretti grabbed the lead at the beginning and was almost unchallenged until disaster struck. He led 170 of the first 177 laps, the most dominant pace since 1930 and even in the end the fifth-most dominant race ever from the standpoint of laps led.

Unser, meanwhile, almost never survived the first trip around the track, barely avoiding a spin and crash by Josele Garza.

Andretti lost the lead only briefly twice when he came in for routine pit stops. When he built a lead of more than one lap with a full third of the race to go, the question was not whether he would outrun the other cars, but whether he would outrun his perennial bad luck.

He wouldn't make it to the checkered flag this year, finally quitting after 180 laps. Officially, Andretti finished ninth.

When Andretti went out, the last driver between Unser and the checkered flag was Guerrero, who took the lead for five laps and seemed in control. But again, Unser benefited from someone else's bad luck.

After the 182nd lap, Guerrero came in for a pit stop and couldn't get the car out of gear.

Unser had more than a lap lead over Guerrero, but the Col-

ombian driver unlapped himself and closed the gap behind Unser when the final yellow came out as Andretti stalled again.

Unser's winning time was 3 hours, 4 minutes, 59.147 seconds. Guerrero finished second for the second time in his four years at Indy.

Rookie Fabrizio Barbazza of Italy was third, followed by Al Unser Jr., Gary Bettenhausen, Dick Simon, Rookies Stan Fox and Jeff Macpherson and Andretti. Tony Bettenhausen was 10th, followed by Johnny Rutherford, Scott Brayton, Danny Sullivan and Tom Sneva, who crashed on the 143rd lap.

Andretti's 170 leading laps were the most by a driver since Parnelli Jones led 171 in a 1967 loss to Foyt.

Graham risks boxing title shot against Kalambay

LONDON (R) — Herol Graham of Britain risks his unbeaten record and a shot at a world middleweight boxing title when he defends his European Championship against Samba Kalambay in a bout scheduled for 12 rounds at Wembley on Tuesday.

Graham hopes to make the Italian-based Zairean his 39th successive victim before settling on which of two world crowns to chase.

Following Marvelous Marvin Hagler's shock defeat by Sugar

Ray Leonard, both the World Boxing Association (WBA) and International Boxing Federation (IBF) titles became vacant.

Graham has his pick of bouts and appears leaning towards fighting American Iran Barkley for the WBA title rather than going against Canada's Michael Olajide for the IBF championship.

Kalambay, however, may prove to be a formidable obstacle. He has lost only three times in 45 fights.

Hampden fan rioting poses new crisis for English officials

LONDON (AP) — English soccer chiefs, who are trying to negotiate their clubs' return to European competition, Monday were bracing themselves for a police report on the violence that followed Saturday's Scotland-England international.

Some 100 people were arrested after the 0-0 tie at Hampden Park, when English fans reportedly attacked their Scottish counterparts with sticks and chairs.

The incident prompted Scottish law officials to call for English fans to be banned from Scotland.

English clubs already are banned from playing in European competition following the Heysel Stadium tragedy two years ago, when 39 mostly Italian people were killed trying to flee rioting Liverpool supporters.

The ban is indefinite and English soccer officials have been trying to negotiate a return with UEFA, the sport's governing body in Europe.

The European ban does not affect England's national team, but English fans are kept under tight security whenever they travel abroad.

After Saturday's trouble, the Scottish solicitor general said he wanted any English fans involved banned from games in Scotland. Peter Fraser said he was appalled by reports of the violence.

In a statement, he said: "If the people involved turn out to be English fans they must be told to go home and never come back. We are sick to death with that kind of fan. I would hope that the court will deal with them in stern fashion."

"If they turn out to be Scots fans, they deserve an equally stern rebuke because they will have damaged Scotland's reputation for having the best behaved fans in Europe," he said.

"The fans went on the rampage after the 0-0 draw."

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<p>Cinema CONCORD Tel: 677420</p> <p>THE GOLDEN CHILD</p> <p>Performances 3:30, 5:10, 9:00, 10:45</p>	<p>Cinema RAINBOW Tel: 625153</p> <p>ONE CRAZY SUMMER</p> <p>Performances 3:15, 5:00, 8:30, 10:30</p>	<p>Cinema OPERA Tel: 675573</p> <p>PLATOON</p> <p>Performances 3:15, 5:15, 8:45, 10:45</p>	<p>Cinema PLAZA Tel: 677420</p> <p>ONE CRAZY SUMMER</p> <p>Performances 3:30, 5:10, 9:00, 10:45</p>	<p>Cinema RAGHADAN Tel: 622198</p> <p>CLASH OF THE NINJAS</p> <p>Performances 12:15, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00</p>
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First U.S. loan to China goes ahead

PEKING (R) — A U.S. Supreme Court decision dismissing claims by holders of pre-1949 Chinese bonds has allowed Peking to borrow money in the United States for the first time since the communist revolution in 1949.

The court rejected in March a petition by holders of railway bonds issued in 1911 by the ruling Qing dynasty but which the Chinese government does not acknowledge.

Bankers said IBI Schroder Bank and Trust of New York, a unit of the Industrial Bank of Japan (IBJ), had already arranged syndication of a five-year \$150 million loan at very low interest to state-owned Bank of China.

Mr. Kazuhiko Iida, IBI's assistant Peking representative, said his bank did not fear litigation against the loan by holders of pre-1911 bonds.

A North American banker said that though two other bond

cases were still before the courts, the banking community and China had accepted the Supreme Court Decision as a precedent.

He said China had long wanted to tap the U.S. capital market but was deterred by the threat of legal action.

America banks with offices in China, all keen to lend to Peking, were unhappy that Peking should have chosen to make its first move in the U.S. market with the subsidiary of a foreign bank.

"China never approached us.

We learnt about the deal from the newspapers," the banker said.

He said China could choose to pay the lower of two rates. It could pay either the London Inter Bank Offered Rate (LIBOR), the rate for large short-term loans between banks, or 0.24 of a percentage point above the interest on three-month certificate of deposit.

Banking analysts said China was getting the money very cheaply at rates the banks themselves would pay.

Du Pont to sell explosives business to Canadian firm

WILMINGTON, Delaware (AP) — The Du Pont Co., which started as an explosives-maker nearly 200 years ago, is selling its American and Canadian explosives businesses to Canadian investment Capital Ltd. (CIC) of Toronto.

CIC signed a letter of intent last week to buy Du Pont's U.S. plants and a similar letter to purchase the Canadian explosives business of Du Pont Canada Inc., a 73 per cent owned Du Pont subsidiary.

"We have been associated with commercial explosives for nearly two centuries, and it is difficult to end that relationship with the marketplace," Mr. Bruce Beardsley, a Du Pont vice president, said. "However, commercial explosives is not one of the core businesses upon which the company is building its future."

The businesses being sold had

combined sales last year of about \$150 million and were profitable, according to Mr. Laird Slade, a Du Pont spokesman.

Du Pont had \$27 billion in sales last year and the businesses being sold accounted for one half of one per cent of those sales, Mr. Slade said.

Du Pont has manufactured a variety of explosive products for 185 years, beginning with the manufacture of black powder in 1802. The company discontinued manufacture of black powder in 1973 and withdrew from the dynamite business in 1978 and from commercial propellants in 1986.

Mr. Slade described the sales as an evolution for Du Pont to sell off the businesses and concentrate on other growth areas such as biological products, medical products, electronic, textile fibres and pigments.

Strike cripples Bombay

BOMBAY (R) — Business ground to a halt Monday in India's commercial capital of Bombay and the surrounding Maharashtra state as businessmen went on strike against a government transport tax.

Markets were empty, factories silent and roads clear of commercial traffic throughout the state, strike organisers, Mr. Nanubhai Patel, told Reuters.

Trading at the Bombay Stock Exchange, India's biggest, stopped as brokers joined the strike. The city's port was paralysed and business on the oilseed, bullion, sugar and pepper markets came to a halt.

Mr. Patel, president of the Federation of Association of Industries in Maharashtra, called the indefinite strike by the trade and transport industries to press for the abolition of duty levied on goods entering Bombay and the state.

About one million workers in other industries joined the walk-out for one day Monday in sympathy.

Traders and road hauliers have long demanded the abolition of duty known as "octroi," collected by the state government at tax posts on city and state borders under a system widespread throughout India.

British firm buys famous gun maker for \$112.5 million

LONDON (AP) — F.H. Tomkins Plc, a British industrial company, said last week it has agreed to acquire Smith and Wesson Corp., the famous, 135-year-old American gun maker, for \$112.5 million.

Tomkins is to buy Smith and Wesson from Lear Siegler Holdings Corp., a U.S. diversified company.

Springfield, Massachusetts-based Smith and Wesson's original customers were the gun-toting cowboys of the Wild West. Today it holds around a third of the huge U.S. hand-gun market and it arms policemen around the world.

Best-known is the company's Smith and Wesson .44-calibre gun, the "Magnum."

The company also makes hand-cuffs and the Identikit criminal identification system used by

police forces worldwide to reconstruct the face of a criminal whose photographs are available.

Tomkins' statement said: "The board believes that, with its brand name recognition, reputation for quality, market leadership and its recent stable earnings and cash flow, it will provide Tomkins with a strong base from which to continue to develop in the U.S.A."

Smith and Wesson, which was founded in 1852, posted pre-tax profits of \$14.1 million in the year ended June 30, 1986 on sales of \$116.1 million. Its net tangible assets were \$47.6 million then.

Tomkins makes car parts, trucks, bolts and other products. It had pre-tax profit of \$2.52 million (\$5.9 million) on revenue of \$35.8 million (\$60 million) in its 1985-1986 year.

Firestone quits South Africa

AKRON, Ohio (AP) — The Firestone Tire and Rubber Co. said last week it has sold its remaining 25 per cent interest in Firestone South Africa Ltd. to the holding company that acquired 75 per cent interest in the company in 1981.

Federale Volksbeleggings Beperk, an industrial holding company with headquarters in Johannesburg, signed a management agreement with Firestone when Federale became the controlling shareholder in 1981.

When the management agreement expired in March, Firestone said it asked Federale to consider buying its minority interest in the company. Under terms of the 1981 agreement, Firestone was prohibited from selling its 25 per cent interest to any third party without Federale's approval.

Federale responded with an offer, and Firestone agreed to the sale. Terms were not released.

Firestone said the transaction's impact on earnings would be immaterial.

Akron-based Firestone said it will continue to honour trademark and other long-term agreements with Federale until their expiration dates.

Firestone said its board of directors intends to meet a commitment it made in 1985 to spend about \$500,000 a year for three years to support education and training programmes to enhance economic opportunities for blacks in South Africa.

Firestone said it has provided \$1.2 million so far and will provide an additional \$300,000 by the end of the year.

Global privatisation gathers pace

LONDON (R) — Pinched for cash, or avowed believers in free enterprise, many governments are increasingly eager to privatise state industry.

And if, as in the United States, there are few industries to sell, there are things that government can contract out — even its laundry. Elsewhere, however, among Western societies, leftist parties and trade unions may slow the privatisation drive.

Reuter correspondents based in the Group of Seven major industrial nations, and others, filed reports:

The United States — the sale in March of Consolidated Rail Corp — the bankrupt ruins of a major freight network — was the biggest public offering and privatisation of U.S. history.

Bui Ms. Janet Rothenberg Pack, professor of public policy and management at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, called it an anomaly.

"We don't have a lot of industries to turn back to the private sector. The main focus of privatisation here is what is termed 'intermediate goods,'" she said.

They are services like data processing, food and laundry that can be contracted to private business. U.S. privatisation extends to letting business run state hospitals and schools.

"Most economists recognise the overwhelming importance of private incentives. The more rein you give to private incentives, the better the outcome," Ms. Pack said.

There are still some business operations that will be sold by a federal government anxious to privatise to help narrow a huge budget deficit as well pursue efficiency.

Japan — Seeking to relieve a huge public debt equivalent to about \$1,000 billion, the government has sold holdings in such major enterprises as Japan National Railways and Nippon Telegraph and Telephone (NTT) and aims to dispose of a 34.5 per cent stake in Japan Airlines soon.

A smug stock market has attracted buyers — the NTT issue in April was 10 times oversubscribed.

West Germany — The government has an interest in more than 400 firms. Chancellor Helmut Kohl's centre-right coalition

wants to privatise, but faces opposition and a sell-off "hit" list of 100 has been scaled down to 12.

It has sold energy giant Veba and a 40-per-cent holding in Viag, a chemicals and energy firm. A 20-per-cent stake in Volkswagen has been reduced to 16 per cent.

Trade unions say state assets are being sold off cheap.

France — Rightist parties under Prime Minister Jacques Chirac came to power in 1986 pledging to "liberate" the economy and sell 65 state banking, insurance, media and other firms.

The government hopes to raise sums worth around \$50 billion over five years, using 75 per cent of it to cut state debt while also shaving taxes.

Many of the firms to be sold were taken into state ownership in 1981 when the Socialists came to power.

The number of shareholders has more than tripled since the first sales, to round 4.5 million and such share issues such as that by the Paribas bank group were massively oversubscribed.

Britain — Conservative Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher wants to roll back socialism. After a set of lavishly publicised sell-off, one in six Britons is now a shareholder. Only one in 20 was in that category as recently as 1983.

Holdings sold so far, netting the exchequer sums worth more than \$20 billion, include gas utility British Gas, the British Telecom telecommunications company and British Airways. Aero-engine builder Rolls Royce is the latest float.

Ms. Thatcher plans more if she wins a June 11 poll, but union-backed Labour opponents pledge to renationalise British Gas and British Telecom.

Italy — Mr. Romano Prodi, chairman of the state industrial holding company Istituto per la Ricostruzione Industriale (IRI), aims to sell non-strategic assets and partly privatise others by floating shares, but a bid sell IRI foodstuffs subsidiary SME to industrialist Carlo de Benedetti in 1985 led to a political row.

IRI had more success selling carmaker Alfa Romeo to Fiat last year. But a joint venture in telecommunications with Fiat subsidiary Telettra drew fire from the Socialist Party.

High unemployment makes unions wary of privatisations which may lead to job losses. Lack of anti-trust laws arouses fears of giving too much power to a family-dominated private sector.

Canada — The Progressive Conservative Party pledged major sales among more than 60 state-run firms when swept to power in 1984. It has so far sold 11 for a total \$1.2 billion, including Teleglobe Canada, a communications company.

But it has yet to decide its two jewels — oil giant Petro-Canada and flag carrier Air Canada — which could involve flotations on the scale of those in Britain and France.

Business, says the government, is going too slowly. Labour and nationalist groups opposed privatisation on ideological ground and worry about state-run companies going to foreigners.

Portugal — Steel, chemicals, shipyards and several other businesses were nationalised after a 1974 military revolution and the sale of fully owned state firms is now barred by the constitution. Parliament will soon have powers to change that but leftists and the unions will resist.

Elections are due in July, with an outgoing centre-right Social Democratic Party government favouring privatisation to help the economy adapt to European Community membership.

Austria — After decades of Socialist rule, state industries account for 20 per cent of output. Chancellor Franz Vranitzky's coalition government wants to sell off some of them but most — recipients of huge subsidies — are too deep in the red.

Closest to realisation is the flotation of shares in oil firm OBMV A.G., the only big state firm making a profit.

Belgium — The government has had to impose economic austerity measures and it needs money.

Liberal (Conservative) Budget Minister Guy Verhofstadt advocates selling shares in the state airline, postal authority and other enterprises. But political sources

said he got a muted response from non-liberals in the coalition.

And Mr. Paul Henrion, vice-president of savings bank CGER which is on his list, said: "Public company we are and public company we wish to stay."

Netherlands — The government may sell off 30 per cent of giant chemicals firm N.V. DSM in what would be the biggest flotation in the history of the Amsterdam Stock Exchange. But the government does not have a major role in business.

Philippines — Philippines President Corason Aquino on April 20 approved 113 state-owned or controlled corporations for privatisation.

Her country is a major Third World debtor, owing \$28.2 billion, and is among pioneers of the "debt-equity swap" — a process whereby a creditor takes a stake in a company in the debtor country in lieu of loan repayment.

Finance Secretary Jaime Ongpin says: "The Philippines is probably unique in adopting policies that specifically link privatisation with a debt-equity conversion programme."

Sweden — The Social Democratic government long resisted privatisation on ideological grounds but has turned more to the private sector since returning to power in 1982.

It plans this autumn to sell 20 to 30 per cent of its holding in the state Procordia building, chemicals, drugs, food and engineering conglomerate.

In 1984, 15 per cent of shares in state-owned bank P.K.-Banken were offered to the public.

Turkey — Government officials say Turkey has decided to open its industrial privatisation programme with the sale of several state-owned companies and shares held by the government in private concerns.

Prime Minister Turgut Ozal, who came to power in 1983, aims to privatise the country's 40 state-owned industrial and service companies, known as state economic enterprises (SEE).

Private and government sources say the SEE, accounting for around 10 per cent of gross domestic product, are a burden. They cite the archaic management and state subsidies needed to keep them afloat.

Fears of stock market plunge spread in Tokyo

TOKYO (R) — Tokyo's high-flying stockmarket, the richest in the world, may be about to go into a plunge, a growing number of pessimistic brokers believe.

Rising U.S. interest rates and inflation, a looming Third World debt crisis and fading expectations of further cuts in Japanese interest rates are undermining investor confidence.

Analysts from some of Japan's top securities houses, until now almost universally optimistic, are predicting sharp downturns in stock prices.

Even Nomura Securities, the world's biggest brokerage, while dismissing talk of a market collapse, sees most share prices moving sideways for the next two months, a Nomura broker said.

"We have experienced a long, strong market upswing so people are becoming concerned share prices may have risen too high," said Mr. Takaaki Yoda, equities research manager at Daiwa Securities.

Mr. Yoda predicted the closely-watched 225-share market index could shed up to 10 per cent in the coming two months.

Analysts said that the widening differential in American and Japanese interest rates caused by rate increases in the United States have made chances for further cuts in the 2.5 per cent discount rate here look more remote.

If falling interest rates begin to bottom out in Japan, then this would definitely be bad for the

market, Mr. Yoda said. Successive cuts in the discount rate have diverted savings of cash-laden corporations and individuals from bank deposits to stock investment, helping propel the Tokyo exchange to its present position as the richest stockmarket in the world.

Mounting fear of inflation in the United States, which has steered Wall Street's stock exchange into a sluggish phase, is also casting gloom onto the Japanese sharemarket.

"Japan will catch inflation from the United States," said Mr. Kazuhisa Okamoto, chief investment and research analyst at Nikko Securities.

"International commodity prices are rising and Japan cannot

help but import some of this inflation," he added.

Inflation is an age-old bugbear of stockmarkets as it erodes the real value of investments and traditionally triggers rising interest rates.

Inflation worries have been whipped up further by reports that the amount of money moving through the Japanese economy rose a dramatic 9.8 per cent in April from a year earlier.

Adding to such misgivings, doubts over the health of international banking deepened last week after the biggest U.S. banking group, Citicorp, announced it was adding \$3 billion to a fund covering risky loans to Third World countries.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, MAY 26, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: It's a very good day to quietly think in terms of whatever obligations of a practical nature you have. Get rid of them through a conscientious endeavor.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Although you like to get into creative affairs it is better to handle whatever is of a practical nature.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) You have several avenues to follow that will bring you greater popularity, but choose the wisest.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You may feel hemmed in by the situation around you, but a little ingenuity can free you from this condition.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Don't ask favors of others today or you could get into troublesome arguments.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Don't feel put off by influential people. Realize that bigwigs have problems worse than your own.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) You are anxious to get into new projects, but this is not the right time to do so. Get your routines improved.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Don't take any risks with your mate or you can lose much of the harmony that has been so carefully built up.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Outside partners are not in the mood to do what you would like, so don't call them today.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Although your work may seem boring, keep at it. Take any health treatments you may need.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Instead of planning recreations, finish those practical tasks that have to be completed now.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You have to have more patience and consideration at home now, so don't lose your patience.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Much more care than usual has to be exercised in motion. Be careful of any errors in your reports.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he, or she, will be deliberate and take much time at doing everything, so it would be wise to teach this one to be faster in order to keep up with others. Your progeny could do well along business lines and should have the education slanted this way.

THE Daily Crossword

by Wilson McBeath

ACROSS

1 Aircolor

5 Throw

9 Parrot

14 Frank

15 Part of a column

16 Gr. market

17 Article

18 Crux

19 Gin and bridge

20 Estanga

23 Consume

24 Subway

25 Lean animal

27 City on the Adriatic

30 Cafe

32 Vintage car

33 Lean animal

35 Tended

38 Inaptly

40 Earthen vessel

42 Winter left

43 Reize

45 — cotta

47 Small bit

48 Explains

50 Expressed

52 Thought

54 Hot woman

55 Deviate

56 Perform

57 Desperate

58 Gay

59 Pertain to

60 Cheese

61 Harass

62 Bustle

63 Sealed

64 product

65 Curves

66 Spinnings

67 Tear apart

DOWN

1 Of a type

2 Joseph Broz

3 Poem word

4 Regain

5 Consciousness

6 Retort

7 Sharp ridge

8 Cabbage salad

9 Log

10 Turk. title

11 Reprimand

12 Of a region

13 Desperate

14 Bakery products

15 Type measure

16 Memorable

17 Comedies

18 def-

19 Close

20 Do as expected

21 Ruth and

22 Stravinsky

23 Appraise

24 Sound

25 Was in debt

26 Outer prof.

27 "Karamazov"

28 Felines

29 Mimic

30 Recent prof.

31 Weather

32 Noted ocean-

33 ographer

34 Sea eagles

35 Denude

Fijian governor formally grants amnesty to Rabuka

SUVA (R) — Fiji's governor-general formally granted amnesty Monday to Lieutenant-Colonel Sitiveni Rabuka and the troops who staged this month's military coup while supporters of the ousted government prepared for a protest strike.

As racial and geographic tensions continued to simmer in this strategic Pacific island chain, police and the army confiscated weapons in visits to shops and houses.

Ratu Sir Penaia Ganilau granted amnesty to leaders of the coup which ousted the recently elected government of Timoci Bavadra, which gave Indians a majority in government for the first time since independence from Britain in 1970.

An announcement in the official government gazette said Ganilau, personal representative of Queen Elizabeth, who is Fiji's head of state, gave Col. Rabuka and the troops who kidnapped Dr. Bavadra's cabinet at gunpoint amnesty because they had gone out of their way to avoid bloodshed.

The statement said Col. Rabuka had also respected the integri-

ty of the office of the governor-general, who now heads an interim administration until new elections are held.

Fijian traditional chiefs from across the country's 300 islands met in closed session Monday to debate constitutional changes designed to ensure that leaders of the large Indian community never again form a majority in the government, sources close to the meeting told Reuters.

Ganilau convened the first meeting of a Special Council of Advisers who will help rule the country until the constitution is changed and elections organised. He nominated Ratu Sir Kamiseva Mara, who ruled the country as prime minister from independence until last month's election, to help supervise foreign affairs.

Col. Rabuka is in charge of security.

Troops in camouflage uniform continued to patrol the streets of the capital Suva, as Dr. Bavadra's supporters, who include a large section of the Indian business community, planned a protest strike and closure of shops Tuesday.

Members of the ousted coalition headed by Dr. Bavadra described the coup Sunday as an act of terrorism, and promised a campaign of non-violent protest to get the government reinstated. Dr. Bavadra boycotted Monday's advisory council meeting, though he and another member of his coalition were offered places on the 19-member committee.

He told reporters he was considering attending a meeting of the South Pacific Forum in Apia, Western Samoa, next weekend. Dr. Bavadra's 12-man cabinet was composed of seven Indian members and five Fijians, including himself.

Fiji has a population of 714,000 Indians, brought here in the last century to work on sugar plantations, slightly outnumber indigenous Fijians.

Gorbachev arrives in Romania

BUCHAREST (R) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev arrived Monday in Romania, whose President Nicolae Ceausescu has shown little inclination to embrace the Kremlin's new policies of openness and economic change.

Mr. Gorbachev, who was on the first official visit to Romania by a Soviet leader since 1976, was accompanied by his wife Raisa and his chief aide on Eastern European affairs, Vadim Medvedev.

Mr. Gorbachev and Mr. Ceausescu exchanged three traditional kisses on the cheek before the two countries' national anthems were played. Mr. Gorbachev smiled broadly as he greeted Mr. Ceausescu's wife Elena, who is a politically powerful person in Romania.

Thousands of people were brought onto the streets to wave and cheer at Mr. Gorbachev and Mr. Ceausescu as they rode in an open-top car from the airport to the city centre.

State television, which is normally filled with eulogies to the Ceausescus and broadcasts for only two hours daily on weekdays, made a special live transmission of Mr. Gorbachev's arrival ceremonies.

But the welcome was in other ways distinctly low-key in comparison with the treatment he has received when visiting other Eastern European allies.

This reflected the maverick role in the Warsaw Pact played by Mr. Ceausescu, who has sought domestic political advantage out of distancing himself from some Soviet foreign policy and economic stances.

Until Monday there were no portraits of Mr. Gorbachev on Bucharest's streets and no banners proclaiming Soviet-Romanian friendship. The Communist Party daily Scinteia maintained its practice of not publishing a Monday edition.

The government newspaper Romania Libera carried a biography of Mr. Gorbachev on its front page, but devoted its entire back page to announcing the translation of Mr. Ceausescu's works into Greek.

While Mr. Gorbachev has embarked on policies of openness, criticism and economic change at home, Mr. Ceausescu has maintained a firm grip on culture and information policies and the Romanian economy has sunk into crisis.

Americans honour military dead

NEW YORK (AP) — Americans approached the sad, proud tradition of honouring the nation's military dead with fresh grief over the USS Stark, but Memorial Day also brought celebrations of the constitution's 200th birthday and the Golden Gate bridge's 50th.

The holiday weekend sent millions of people to backyard barbecues, beaches, parades and other outdoor activities including the Indianapolis 500, which Al Unser Sr. won Sunday for the fourth time.

Vice President George Bush was the scheduled keynote speaker in Philadelphia for Monday's official opening of a 16-week bicentennial commemoration of the constitutional convention.

The USS Constitution, known as old ironclads and oldest ship in the navy, was to fire its traditional 21-gun Memorial Day salute in Boston Harbor.

In Depoe Bay, Oregon, fishermen planned to cast 500 wreaths into the Pacific Ocean on Monday in the 42-year-old fleet of flowers tradition.

In Comer, Georgia, about 8,000 veterans and members of their families were expected at a seven-day campout planned by the "LZ Friendly" Vietnam veterans support group, who named themselves after the military term for a safe landing zone.

"It's worth driving up here to meet our brothers and sisters, and to laugh and cry and dance under the stars and know we're safe," said veteran Sam Dailey of Savannah.

Other Memorial Day weekend fun included the 40th annual spray rodeo in eastern Oregon, in which spectators lined a two-block parade route. The parade, long on horses and short on marching bands, wound around the block twice to give everyone a chance to wave.

On a larger scale, more than a million people turned out Sunday for the Golden Gate Bridge's 50th birthday bash. The party started with a walk across the span by 250,000 people and continued into the night with a fireworks show and singer Tony Bennett crooning "I Left My Heart in San Francisco."

As in other recent Memorial Days, veterans who participated in the Vietnam war urged the nation to honour their service and remember their comrades who remain unaccounted for. In Madison, Wisconsin, Vietnam veterans clad in army fatigues set up a bamboo cage near Capitol Square as reminder.

Japanese spies pass Hawkeye data to Soviets

TOKYO (AP) — Technical data on the new Boeing E3C Hawkeye fighter jet may have been among information sold to the Soviet Union by four suspected spies, a major Japanese newspaper said Monday.

Police discovered copies of the E3C's technical order and a manual for maintenance, inspection and piloting of the jet in the home of Masayoshi Tachibana, 59, a military writer and former worker at a U.S. air base, the Yomiuri Shimbun reported.

Tachibana was one of four men arrested on May 19 on suspicion of spying for the Soviet Union and China, the newspaper said. Police officials said they would not confirm or deny the Yomiuri report. U.S. military officers were closed Monday for a U.S. national holiday.

There were earlier unconfirmed reports that the ring sold information on the sophisticated U.S. F-16 fighter jet to the Soviets.

The E3C Hawkeye, recently introduced to combat units in the United States and West Germany, can scan an area 400 kilometres in radius and detect more than 600 targets. The Soviet Union strongly desired technical information on the E3C because its version of the jet is said to be inferior, the Yomiuri said.

On May 19, police arrested Hiroshi Date, 62, a counsellor at the private China Technical Centre, after he attempted to pass documents to V.B. Aksenov of the Soviet trade representative's office at a park in western Tokyo.

Police accused Date and other members of the spy ring of selling U.S. military documents to Aksenov and Igor Solokov, a first secretary at the Soviet embassy in Tokyo, in exchange for 100 million yen (\$714,286), the Yomiuri said.

On May 19, police also arrested Hiroshi Osumi, 65, an employee in the technical library of the U.S. Yokota Air Base in western Tokyo, for allegedly stealing technical documents.

Tachibana and Sadao Gotoh, 60, the president of Sanko Ltd., a trading company doing business with China, were arrested the same day on charges of buying stolen goods.

Aksenov and Solokov returned to the Soviet Union last week. The Yomiuri report said police also found copies of the technical orders for the mid-air refuelling system for E3 and for the missile transport trailers in Tachibana's home and other places they searched.

Protests against torture coverup continues in Seoul

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Thousands of students staged rallies Monday to protest an alleged coverup in the torture death of a detained student, and riot police used tear gas to disperse at least one protest.

Students at several Seoul universities demonstrated to demand the removal of the government of President Chun Doo-Hwan amid growing charges that top officials helped cover up the torture death of student Park Chong-Chul under police interrogation in January.

"Down with the military dictatorship" and "down with the brutal police," the protesters chanted.

Students fought with police for about two hours at Sungkyunkwan University after riot squads firing tear gas moved on to the campus to break up a demonstration. About 700 students buried firebombs and rocks at police during the running clashes.

Anti-government students staged peaceful rallies and sit-ins at several other Seoul schools.

Five student leaders shave their heads in protest at Hanyang University and other students began a hunger strike at Seoul National University.

Yonhap, the Korean News Agency, said some 7,400 students took part in protest at 24 universities and colleges across South Korea.

The government announced during the weekend that five senior police officials were being questioned about a possible coverup in the killing of Park. Five other police officers have been arrested in connection with the death.

Korean Broadcasting System (KBS), the state radio, reported Monday evening that the five top officers had been allowed to return home, but said the case was still under investigation. KBS said prosecutors now were questioning other witnesses.

Park was being questioned about the whereabouts of a fugitive student leader and his own dissident activities when he died.

Sri Lanka denies major offensive in north

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — Sri Lanka's security minister said Monday that government troops were moving "step by step" against Tamil rebel hideouts in the northern Jaffna peninsula, but denied plans for a major offensive.

National Security Minister Laksh Athulathmudali said additional troops were being deployed to beef up army camps in and around Jaffna town, 300 kilometres north of Colombo. He declined to give troop strengths.

"It is only the media in India which has launched a major offensive in the north, not us," Mr. Athulathmudali told the Associated Press.

Indian newspapers have been running almost daily stories quoting Tamil rebels as saying an all-out offensive has begun in northern Sri Lanka.

Most of the Tamil rebel groups, which have been waging a four-year separatist war in Sri Lanka, have exile headquarters in the southern Indian city of Madras.

Mr. Athulathmudali described the recent clashes on the Jaffna peninsula as a "step by step" advance by troops aimed at taking control of Jaffna town.

The operations are necessary, he said, "since Tamil terrorists have rejected all proposals to negotiate."

He also accused the government of the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu of directly aiding the rebels.

"What Tamil Nadu has been doing covertly, now they have done overtly," Mr. Athulathmudali charged.

He was referring to reports that more than \$3 million of supposed humanitarian aid from Tamil Nadu was funnelled through a Tamil relief fund to rebel groups, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam and the Eelam Revolutionary Organisation of students.

Sri Lanka lodged a strong protest with New Delhi, saying the funding constituted Indian intervention in Sri Lanka's internal affairs.

Mr. Athulathmudali said navy and air surveillance had been stepped up in the seas separating India from northern Sri Lanka to prevent new arms from reaching the island.

"We have reports the \$3.2 million (in) 'aid' has put the Tamil terrorists in the arms market in Madras," he said. "We will do what we can to see the fresh stock of arms purchased with the Indian 'aid' does not reach Sri Lanka."

Actress Hermione Gingold dies at age 89

NEW YORK (R) — Actress Hermione Gingold, a feisty woman with a rapier wit who graced the stages of London and New York for nearly eight decades, has died at the age of 89, her doctor said.

Gingold, who suffered from Parkinson's Disease for several years, died Sunday morning in her sleep at Lenox Hill Hospital where she had been admitted April 30 for pneumonia complicated by heart disease, said her physician, Gerson Nomas.

Born Hermione Ferdinands Gingold in London on Nov. 9, 1897, she made her debut on the London stage at the age of 11 under the name Rosina Philips in Pinkie and the Fairies. At 13, she appeared with Noel Coward in Where the Rainbow Ends.

She last appeared on Broadway in 1980. British actor Sir John Gielgud said she was a "giant old girl. She was awfully clever."

Allen Mehie, a nationally syndicated gossip columnist who writes under the name, "Suzy," said, "I thought she was rascal and a wonderful one. Witty and nice."

"And I always thought it was fun to see her at parties. She was always with some attractive young man and seemed to be having a good time."

Her physician told Reuters, "she was always surrounded by young men. More than one. She enjoyed going out. She enjoyed her movies and her plays. She enjoyed life."

Nomas said Gingold sometimes was depressed because Parkinson's Disease restricted her mobility. "But there were times she would bubble and smile and tell you funny stories. She was a delightful lady."

Hermione, named after the daughter of the King of Troy, became a Shakespearean actress, playing Cassandra in Troilus and Cressida at Stratford-On-Avon.

She continued in classical roles at the Old Vic and in the West End until a comedic role in the Gaiety Review helped her find the style for which she would become best-known.

In 1951, she made her American debut in a revue called It's About Time.

She also appeared in numerous movies, including Gigi in 1958 and the Music Man in 1962. In Gigi, she sang an unforgettable duet with the late Maurice Chevalier. Yes, I Remember It Well.

In 1973, she starred on Broadway in the Stephen Sondheim musical A Little Night Music. Her final performance on Broad-

way was in another Sondheim show, Side-by-Side With Sondheim in 1980.

Gingold also wrote two books, The World Is Square and Stens Should Be Seen And Not Heard.

"I can't spell and my secretary can't spell. We can't even look up words in the dictionary because we don't know where to find them," she said.

She once explained her wind-blown hair style by saying, "I pop my head out of the window each morning and everyone knows my hair style depends on which way the wind is blowing."

At a party for her 88th birthday, she said she was working on a book, How To Grow Old Disgracefully.

"Is it an autobiography?" someone asked.

"What is that," Gingold replied. "It sounds like something written in a motorcar."

Gingold was married twice, to Michael Joseph, by whom she had two sons, and Eric Muschwitz, in London. Both marriages ended in divorce.

She spent her final years in New York, saying she could not return to England because it would mean her small army of pets would be forced into quarantine under British animal regulations.

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Ear reattached after dog bites it off

LA PUENTE, California (AP) — Doctors reattached a 7-year-old boy's ear that had been bitten off by a dog, swallowed whole, and recovered nearly intact from the animal after it was destroyed. It was too soon to tell if the surgery was successful, said nursing supervisor Alyce Richardson at Queen of the Valley Medical Centre, where the boy was taken. The unidentified boy was in stable condition after more than two hours of surgery, she said. The boy was attacked Sunday afternoon in the driveway of a neighbour's home by a German Shepherd and a mixed-breed Doberman Pinscher, said Los Angeles county fire Capt. Jack Doberman Pinscher, who found the boy in his home. "The father had his son in his arms and a pad over (the boy's) head," he said. Both dogs were destroyed at a County Animal Care and Control Centre because officers did not know which dog had swallowed the ear, said animal control officer Wendy Guerrero. The ear, swallowed whole, was found in Doberman's stomach, mostly intact, Ms. Guerrero said. Animal control officers packed the ear in ice and rushed it to the hospital, she said. Authorities said they did not know what prompted the attack.

Camel owner heavily fined over crash

SHARJAH, United Arab Emirates (R) — Two camels which strayed onto a road and caused a fatal car crash landed the owner a \$19,000 fine in a court judgment reversing an age-old custom. It has long been the practice in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for the owner of any animal killed in an accident involving a vehicle to claim compensation from the driver. But this time the owner was arrested and fined, the Sharjah daily Al Khaleej reported. It said Abdullah Saad Salem, 25, was killed instantly when his car ploughed into the camels which ran onto a highway. His brother was injured and the car crushed. The camels survived.

Fans celebrate Star Wars 10th anniversary

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Ten years after movie producer George Lucas introduced the world to a galaxy far, far away, fans celebrated the Star Wars movie with tributes to its creator and purchases of memorabilia at a weekend convention. Among the 13,000 spectators expected during the three-day convention were adults and children dressed as the film's heroes Luke Skywalker, Princess Leia and Han Solo. One T-Shirt declared "mother was an Ewok" and a woman walked the convention floor with a large Chewbacca doll on her back, treasuring the giant "wookiee" that befriended Solo and Skywalker. "I like space and the flying (in the films). I want to be a pilot. I want to go into space because of the films," said young Julie Valletta, who has seen Star Wars and the sequels, the Empire Strikes Back and Return of the Jedi, a total of 96 times. The films are three of the all-time biggest box office success. They have earned \$4 billion in theatre tickets, cassette sales, and screenings on free and pay television. Another \$2.6 billion came from sales of games, toys, books, clothing, candy bars, bedsheets, wallpaper, posters and other kinds of merchandise.

'Pine cone extract arrests AIDS spread'

TOKYO (AP) — Japanese scientists have found that pine cone extract, used in Japan to treat stomach tumors and leukemia, inhibits the spread of the AIDS virus in laboratory experiments, a researcher has said. Showa University Professor Kunio Konno, who heads the team of scientists working at the Showa University in the United States, said researchers found that an extract from the cone of the Japanese white pine was effective in arresting the growth of the AIDS virus in lymph cells. He said the research was done at Showa's Independent Institute in the United States but first announced in Japan. The spread of AIDS was inhibited by 80 per cent to 90 per cent in the treated lymph cells, but the AIDS virus continued to spread in the untreated control batch, he said. "From the research results, it (the extract) might be more effective than AZT in treating AIDS," Konno said. Acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), which destroys the body's immune system and leaves its victims defenseless against infection, has no known cure. AZT, or Azidothymidine, which has been found to prolong the lives of some victims, is being used on a limited basis for treatment of AIDS patients in the United States.

Miss Colombia named Miss Photogenic

SINGAPORE (AP) — Miss Colombia was voted "Miss Photogenic" Monday by news photographers covering the Miss Universe pageant. Patricia Lopez, a 19-year-old student from Medellin, is one of 68 contestants in the annual competition. Her selection as the most photogenic entrant has no direct bearing on the final choice Wednesday of Miss Universe, but tended to bolster the already strong prospects of the Latin American contingent. Organisers said this year's winner would receive a record \$225,000 in prizes, including a sports car, furs and diamonds, and \$81,000 in cash. Women from the United States have won the title five times since the contest started in 1951, followed by Sweden and Venezuela with three winners each. Two-time winners have come from Brazil, Finland, Puerto Rico and the Philippines. The current Miss Universe is Barbara Palacios Teyde, 22, of Venezuela. She won the crown last year in Panama City where five of the 10 finalists were from Latin America.

Father of liver transplant girl robbed

LONDON (AP) — The father of a 4-year-old Israeli girl who came to Britain for a life-saving liver transplant was robbed at the hospital where his daughter is recovering, police said. A Scotland Yard spokeswoman said Zion Kadosh, 29, of Beersheva, was robbed of £250 (\$417) and the family's return plane tickets to Israel. The cash and the tickets were in a paper bag stolen from King's College Hospital, the spokeswoman said. A relative, Shoshana Ling, told reporters: "This is an absolutely dreadful thing. I was in tears when I heard of the theft. The family needs every penny." Kadosh and his wife Tova, 28, have been staying at the London hospital where their daughter Moran is recovering after receiving a new liver in an operation at Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge last month.

Chagall painting sold for \$858,000

TEL AVIV (R) — A painting executed by French Jewish artist Marc Chagall at the age of 86 fetched \$858,000 in a Jerusalem auction highlighting works by Jewish artists and craftsmen. The 1973 oil painting of a vase of flowers against a pastoral yellow background and entitled Flowers was bought in a telephone bid by an anonymous American. The estimated price in the catalogue was \$450,000 to \$550,000. The \$2.67-million auction was the second in Israel in two years by Sotheby's auction house of London of Jewish-related works, underscoring recent collector interest in Jewish ritual objects and art works. One of the most unusual items in the sale was a 16th century manuscript which contains the first known reference in Hebrew to the discovery of America in 1492. The geography manuscript was written in 1551 by Hebrew translator Moshe Almosnino, whose parents fled the Spanish inquisition the same year Columbus discovered America. It was bought by an American dealer for \$33,000.

Afghan security forces seize heroin

ISLAMABAD (R) — Afghan security forces seized 119 kilograms of heroin in a vehicle in Paghman district near Kabul, the official Bakhtar News Agency said Monday. The agency, based in Islamabad, said the drug had been brought from Pakistan. The driver and other occupants of the vehicle were arrested, it said, but gave no further details. Heroin, worth about \$1 million per kilogramme at U.S. street prices, is produced in large amounts from poppies grown in the Hindu Kush mountains which straddle the Afghan-Pakistan border. Last December the Soviet-backed government announced the arrest of 10 people at Kabul airport for trying to smuggle half a tonne of heroin to London.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠88742 ♠84 ♠AQ93 ♠K7
The bidding has proceeded:
East South West North
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
Pass ?
What action do you take?
- Q.2—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠KJ763 ♠7 ♠84 ♠QJ7642
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♠ Double 1 ♠ ?
Pass ?
What action do you take?
- Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠Q6 ♠K543 ♠KQJ72 ♠84
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South
1 ♠ Double ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AJ872 ♠K95 ♠28762 ♠6
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ ? Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.5—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AJ973 ♠K95 ♠8432 ♠9
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♠ Double Pass ?
What action do you take?
- Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠85 ♠AQJ8 ♠1083 ♠AKJ2
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one diamond.
What action do you take?